



# State Policy Fact Sheet: Pennsylvania

## Nurse Practice Act: 63 P.S. § 211

### Regulatory Structure: Reduced Practice

Pennsylvania constrains nurse practitioner (NP) licensure and practice.

Pennsylvania NPs must have a career-long written agreement with one or more physicians. NPs with current prescriptive authority approval must have a prescriptive authority collaborative agreement with at least two physicians as a condition of prescribing, dispensing or ordering drugs or other therapeutic or corrective measures.

See the Board of Nursing for more information.

63 P.S. § 212

### Regulatory Agency

NP licensure is regulated exclusively by the [Board of Nursing \(BON\)](#).

63 P.S. § 212.1

### Licensure Requirements

Requirements include a registered nurse license, a graduate degree in an NP role and national certification.

63 P.S. § 218.1

### Continuing Education (CE)\*

Thirty CE hours are required every two years. See the BON for details.

63 P.S. § 218.1

### Malpractice Insurance

Malpractice insurance is required for Pennsylvania NPs.

63 P.S. § 218.7

### Medical Staff Membership\*\*

NPs are not permitted to join medical staffs.

28 PA ADC § 107.2

### Primary Care Providers

NPs are defined in law as primary care providers.

28 PA ADC § 9.678

### Signature Recognition on Items of Patient Care

- Physical Therapy: NPs are authorized to refer to physical therapy.  
63 P.S. § 218.2
- Parking Permits: NPs are authorized to provide proof of disability for disabled parking permits.  
75 Pa.C.S.A. § 1338
- DNR: NPs are not currently authorized to sign Do Not Resuscitate orders.  
20 Pa.C.S.A. § 5483
- Death Certificates: NPs are authorized to sign death certificates.  
35 P.S. § 450.502
- Pennsylvania Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (**POLST**): The POLST form may be signed by an NP.  
PA Department of Health

\*Contact hours in specific topics may be required. Please contact your state Board of Nursing for current information.

\*\*Medical Staff Membership refers to governing and voting privileges and is not reflective of clinical or admitting privileges within institutions.

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