



# State Policy Fact Sheet: Washington

## Nurse Practice Act: RCWA 18.79

### Regulatory Structure: Full Practice

Washington practice and licensure laws authorize nurse practitioners (NPs) to evaluate patients, diagnose and prescribe medications and therapeutic measures.

RCWA 18.79.250

### Regulatory Agency

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

RCWA 18.79.110

### Licensure Requirements

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

WAC 246-840-340

### Continuing Education (CE)\*

Thirty CE hours are required every two years, and for NPs with prescriptive authority, an additional 15 CE hours are required during that time period. See the Board of Nursing for details.

WAC 246-840-360 and WAC 246-840-450

### Medical Staff Membership\*\*

NPs are permitted to join medical staffs.

WAC 246-320-010

### Primary Care Providers

NPs are defined in law as Primary Care Providers.

RCWA 74.09.010

### Signature Recognition on Items of Patient Care

- Signature Recognition: Washington grants NPs signature recognition.  
RCWA 18.79.256
- Physical Therapy: NPs are authorized to refer to physical therapy.  
WAC 246-840-300
- Parking Permits: NPs are authorized to provide proof of disability for disabled parking permits.  
RCWA 46.19.010
- DNR: NPs are authorized to sign Do Not Resuscitate orders.  
WA State Department of Health
- Death Certificates: NPs are authorized to sign death certificates.  
RCWA 70.58A.010
- Washington Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment ([POLST](#)): The POLST form may be signed by an NP.  
WA State 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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