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Kansas nurse practice act

The nursing profession is constantly changing and growing to adapt to increased clinical demands. Each state is responsible for regulating its own clinician workforce and outlining the rules and standards that govern nursing practice. In Kansas, these laws are set forth in the Kansas Nurse Practice Act. The laws outlined in the Nurse Practice Act (NPA) specify the duties of nursing professionals and review guidelines for practicing safely and effectively. In this article, we review key components of the Kansas NPA and provide tips for facility leaders looking to better understand the legal framework to improve patient safety and staff compliance. What is the Kansas State Nurse Practice Act? RNs, APRNs, LPNs, and LMHTs practicing in Kansas are required to follow the rules and guidelines outlined in the Kansas Nurse Practice Act. This legislation: The Nurse Practice Act: Kansas Laws at a Glance Every state utilizes its own NPA to govern nursing practice, each containing similar legal processes and protocols. However, it's important to understand the intricacies of Kansas's specific nursing practice laws in order to provide safe clinical care. In the table below, we review key elements unique to the Kansas NPA. Kansas Nurse Practice Act Legal Authorities Kansas Annotated Statutes, Chapter 65, Article 11: Sections 65-1113 to 65-1166 Kansas Administrative Regulations, Agency 60 Articles 60-1-101 to 60-17-111 Kansas State Nursing Licensure Requirements Kansas RN licensure applicants must qualify by either passing the NCLEX examination or getting a license endorsed from another state. Steps for Endorsement Qualification: Note: The board may grant a non-renewable temporary RN license for nurses who are new to state nursing practice and meet board specifications. This temporary license is valid for a maximum of 120 days. The Kansas Board of Nursing website also provides approximate timeframes for application processing and outlines the required steps to renew a nursing license. Kansas Nurse Practice Act Delegation of Duties Nursing professionals are allowed to delegate when: The nurse will maintain responsibility and accountability for the task. The task is within the individual's scope of practice and ability. The nurse is able to instruct, supervise, and evaluate the performance of the nursing task. There is minimal risk to the client if the task is performed improperly. The act is consistent with the facility's policies and procedures. Nursing professionals are prohibited from delegating tasks such as: Penalties Any violation of the following rules outlined in the Kansas Annotated Statutes Section 65-1120 can lead to disciplinary action: Any of the above violations could result in a suspended or revoked nursing license along with fines and public reprimand. Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) State? Kansas is part of the NLC compact. Therefore, the Kansas Nurse Practice Act encompasses rules and guidelines established by the NLC. Improving NPA Compliance: 3 Strategies for Facilities By reviewing the laws outlined in the Nurse Practice Act, Kansas clinicians and administrators can help patients receive the quality of care they deserve. However, becoming familiar with Kansas nursing regulations is only the first step toward improving regulatory compliance. Here are three strategies for incorporating the Kansas NPA rules into practice to optimize your team's performance. 1. Provide Staff Education on the Kansas NPA Nurses receive training on delegation responsibilities and scope of practice limitations in nursing school, but many may not be familiar with legal updates or changes that occur after graduation. Providing employees with educational materials on the NPA can help them stay informed to manage their own professional practice. Some organizations offer in-person classes where NPA rules are presented and discussed. Other facilities offer their clinicians an "NPA Guidebook" to review the regulations on their own time. Regardless of the training type you choose to offer, be sure to include details on any facility-specific policies and procedures that could affect a nurse's daily practice. 2. Automate Reminders for Nursing Licensure Renewal The easiest way to keep your nurses practicing safely is to prevent licensure issues from arising in the first place. Many organizations automate licensure renewal reminders to help their employees avoid late fees or unpaid time off of work. This can be done by email, text message, or paper mailing. Ask employees how they prefer to receive communication from your human resources department. This ensures they get the notification to renew their nursing license with plenty of time to act. 3. Encourage Safety Event Reporting Many clinicians are familiar with safety event reporting in the context of potential clinical risk and patient harm. What they might not know, however, is that these systems are also in place to prevent fraud and administrative error. Administrators should alert the Kansas state board of nursing with any concerns of fraudulent licensing or educational transcript forgery. Clinical staff should also be encouraged to report any witnessed instances of inappropriate delegation via your facility's safety event reporting system. Be sure to communicate that oversight isn't meant to be punitive, but is conducted to keep patients and staff members safe. Discover More Ways to Support Your Team Now that you have a better understanding of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, you're well positioned to support your staff in providing high-quality patient care. Looking for more tips to help your team perform at its best? Our free newsletter is full of creative tips and strategies to help you improve safety, optimize care quality, and boost employee satisfaction. Legal Disclaimer: This article contains general legal information, but it is not intended to constitute professional legal advice for any particular situation and should not be relied on as professional legal advice. Any references to the law may not be current, as laws regularly change through updates in legislation, regulation, and case law at the federal and state level. Nothing in this article should be interpreted as creating an attorney-client relationship. If you have legal questions, you should seek the advice of an attorney licensed to practice in your jurisdiction. For the most up to date statutes and regulations, use the links below to the Kansas Legislature page for the statutes and the Kansas Secretary of State page for the regulations. Both are completely searchable. When looking for regulations, KSBN is listed as agency 60 on the Secretary of State's site. You may also download the entire KNPA in PDF format from this page via the green download button below. Kansas Legislature (Statutes) Kansas Secretary of State (Regulations) Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) play a vital role in the healthcare system, providing essential patient care across various settings. In Kansas, LPNs are crucial to delivering quality healthcare services, governed by specific regulations and educational requirements to ensure safe and effective care. Understanding these parameters is important for both current practitioners and those considering entering the field. This article examines the scope of practice, regulatory mandates, supervision dynamics, and continuing education obligations for LPNs in Kansas. LPN Scope of Practice in Kansas The Kansas Nurse Practice Act defines the scope of practice for LPNs, detailing their duties and responsibilities. According to K.S.A. 65-1113, LPNs provide care under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician, including administering medications, monitoring patient health, and assisting with hygiene. These guidelines ensure LPNs operate within a framework prioritizing patient safety and quality care. The Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) enforces and interprets the scope of practice, providing clear boundaries for LPN responsibilities. LPNs are not authorized to perform complex assessments or make independent clinical judgments, which remain the domain of registered nurses and advanced practitioners. This hierarchy ensures clarity in healthcare team roles. Discussions around expanding the LPN scope of practice, particularly to address workforce shortages in rural areas, highlight the evolving nature of healthcare delivery. Legislative efforts, such as House Bill 2066, aim to adjust the Nurse Practice Act to allow LPNs more responsibilities under certain conditions. Regulatory Requirements The Kansas Nurse Practice Act establishes the legal framework regulating LPNs, with oversight by the KSBN. LPNs must complete an approved practical nursing program and pass the NCLEX-PN to obtain licensure. They are required to renew their license every two years, meeting continuing education requirements to stay updated on nursing practice developments. The KSBN monitors compliance with these regulations and disciplines LPNs who violate the Nurse Practice Act. Disciplinary actions, which can include suspension or revocation of licensure, address violations such as unprofessional conduct, substance abuse, or patient harm. These measures protect public welfare and uphold professional standards. Supervision and Collaboration Supervision and collaboration are integral to LPN practice in Kansas, ensuring safe and effective patient care. LPNs work under the direction of a registered nurse (RN) or physician, with defined roles and responsibilities fostering teamwork within healthcare settings. This relationship promotes clear communication and mutual respect between LPNs and supervising RNs or physicians. LPNs provide updates on patient conditions and execute care plans, while supervisors make informed decisions based on these observations. The KSBN provides guidelines to support this collaborative dynamic and maintain a cohesive approach to patient care. Continuing Education and License Renewal Continuing education is vital for maintaining competence and quality in nursing practice. In Kansas, LPNs must complete 30 contact hours of continuing education every two years to renew their licenses, as mandated by the KSBN. These activities ensure LPNs stay informed about advancements in healthcare and nursing practices. The KSBN outlines acceptable continuing education activities, requiring courses approved by recognized nursing education bodies. These requirements encourage lifelong learning and equip LPNs to address evolving healthcare challenges. Learning opportunities, such as workshops, seminars, and online modules, offer flexibility for meeting these obligations. Legal Implications and Liability LPNs in Kansas must understand the legal responsibilities and potential liabilities associated with their practice. The Kansas Nurse Practice Act defines their scope and establishes protocols they must follow. LPNs are required to adhere to their employers' standards of care and KSBN regulations to avoid legal repercussions. Professional liability insurance is mandatory for LPNs in Kansas, providing protection against negligence or malpractice claims. This coverage includes legal fees, settlements, and judgments. LPNs must review their policies to ensure adequate coverage for their practice settings. Practicing beyond the authorized scope, such as performing unauthorized procedures or making independent clinical decisions, can lead to severe penalties, including license suspension or revocation. The KSBN's disciplinary measures underscore the importance of adhering to legal and professional standards. Impact of Legislative Changes Legislation can significantly influence LPN practice in Kansas. For example, House Bill 2066 proposes expanding the LPN scope of practice to address workforce shortages and improve access to care, particularly in underserved areas. If enacted, this bill would allow LPNs to take on additional responsibilities under specific conditions. The legislative process involves committee reviews, public hearings, and amendments before a bill becomes law. LPNs and other stakeholders are encouraged to engage in this process by providing input and advocating for changes that support the nursing profession and patient care. Do you have too many licenses to keep track of? Do you want to be notified when you are due to renew? Sign up for NCSBN's E-Notify today and receive notifications for your renewal, changes in license status, discipline status, and more! Search for licenses based on the licensee's name, license number, and more with KSBN's online license verification system. This system is the primary source for nursing license status verification in Kansas. Kansas Open Records Act Disclaimer By accessing this site you are certifying that you will not, unless specifically authorized by K.S.A. 45-230, do any of the following: (A) Use any list of names or addresses contained in or derived from the records or information for the purpose of selling or offering for sale any property or service to any person listed or to any person who resides at any address listed; or (B) sell, give or otherwise make available to any person any list of names or addresses contained in or derived from the records or information for the purpose of allowing that person to sell or offer for sale any property or service to any person listed or to any person who resides at any address listed. Search the Kansas Verification Database! Written requests cost \$30 per verification. APRN, CGFNS, or NNAS verification, have to be processed by paper. Please provide contact name, contact information, and the fee. Submit requests to: Kansas State Board of NursingAttn: License Verification900 SW Jackson, Suite 1051Topeka, KS 66612 Effective July 1, 2024, the fees for the KBI background check services will increase from \$48.00 to \$57.00. Fingerprints processed on/after July 1, 2024 are subject to the fee change and the difference of fees may need to be mailed to KSBN for processing. 30 hours of CNEs submitted to KSBN? Please email CNEs to KSBN licensing department, or fax/mail them to the office.) If you are the spouse of an active military member, have you downloaded the mail-in application?(Mail-in application and supporting documents are required. Do not submit online!) If you have legal history to report, do you have your supporting documentation? Note: Pursuant to K.A.R. 60-3-107 (b) applications for licensure while awaiting documentation of qualifications shall be active for 6 months. The expiration date of each application shall be based upon the date of the receipt at the agency. Once the application has expired, each individual seeking licensure shall file a new application along with a new fee as prescribed by K.A.R. 60-4-101 Pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1120(a): Reinstatement of revoked licenses; burden of proof; board of nursing report to legislature. (a) A person whose license has been revoked may apply for reinstatement of the license after the expiration of three years from the effective date of the revocation. Application for reinstatement shall be on a form approved by the board and shall be accompanied by a reinstatement fee established by the board under K.S.A. 65-1118, and amendments thereto. The burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence shall be on the applicant to show sufficient rehabilitation to justify reinstatement of the license. If the board determines a license should not be reinstated, the person shall not be eligible to reapply for reinstatement for three years from the effective date of the denial. All proceedings conducted on an application for reinstatement shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act and shall be reviewable in accordance with the Kansas judicial review act. The board, on its own motion, may stay the effectiveness of an order of revocation of license. Click on "Register a Person" on the left of the login page Fill in your last name, date of birth, and social security number Click "Search" Complete the profile creation form Click "Register" Click on "Register a Person" on the left of the login page Fill in your last name, date of birth, and social security number Click "Search" You should now have a page with most of your information already filled in You can reset your userID, password, and password question/answer Make sure these boxes have something in them, they are required to move on Click "Register" You will need to sign into your portal account to complete an application. Once you get signed in: Click on "Reinstate License" on the left Find the license you wish to reinstate Click "Continue" in the blue bar above that license Click "Start Application" You are now filling out the application. Once finished, checkout and print/save your receipt. If you leave your application for any reason, you will be able to pick it back up by logging in and clicking on "Continue" in the blue bar above your pending application. If the that link isn't there, check your cart. Nurses in Kansas are regulated by the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, which serves as the legal foundation for nursing practice in the state. The act ensures that nurses provide safe, competent care while maintaining professional standards. It defines the scope of practice for registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and outlines the disciplinary procedures for violations. The Kansas Nurse Practice Act is outlined in the Kansas Statutes Annotated (K.S.A.) Chapter 65-1113 through 65-1165. It establishes the Kansas State Board of Nursing, which oversees licensure, standards of practice, and disciplinary actions. The primary purpose of the act is to protect the public by ensuring that nurses meet strict qualifications and adhere to ethical and professional standards. The act defines what constitutes the legal practice of nursing in Kansas. This includes duties and responsibilities specific to RNs, LPNs, and APRNs, ensuring that each category of nurse remains within their legal scope of practice. For example, APRNs may diagnose and prescribe medications, while RNs provide general patient care, and LPNs offer support under supervision. The Kansas Nurse Practice Act defines the legal responsibilities and professional standards nurses must follow. Some key provisions include: Licensure Requirements: Nurses must be licensed by the Kansas State Board of Nursing and complete required continuing education to maintain their license. Scope of Practice: The act clearly defines the duties RNs, LPNs, and APRNs can perform. Practicing outside the scope can result in disciplinary actions. Ethical Standards: The act enforces high ethical standards, such as patient confidentiality, maintaining professional boundaries, and avoiding conflicts of interest. Grounds for Discipline: K.S.A. 65-1120 outlines the grounds for disciplinary actions, including gross negligence, unprofessional conduct, and practicing nursing while impaired by drugs or alcohol. The Role of the Kansas State Board of Nursing The Kansas State Board of Nursing is the regulatory body responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act. It issues licenses, ensures that nurses comply with continuing education requirements, and investigates complaints. The Board has the authority to impose disciplinary actions, including fines, probation, suspension, or revocation of a nurse's license. The Board also plays a role in assisting nurses who may have substance abuse issues or mental health concerns through its voluntary rehabilitation programs. Nurses who participate in these programs can avoid formal disciplinary actions, provided they meet the program's requirements. Violating the Kansas Nurse Practice Act can have serious professional consequences. Depending on the nature of the violation, nurses may face fines, mandatory continuing education, probation, suspension, or revocation of their nursing license. These disciplinary actions will be recorded on the nurse's public record, which future employers can access. Disciplinary marks on a nurse's license can hinder their career prospects and make it difficult to find future employment. Therefore, it is essential to adhere to the provisions of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act and maintain the highest standards of care. Effective July 1, 2024, the fees for the KBI background check services will increase from \$48.00 to \$57.00. Fingerprints processed on/after July 1, 2024 are subject to the fee change and the difference of fees may need to be mailed to KSBN for processing. After submitting your application, in order to prevent accidental duplication, please allow 7-10 business days to pass before logging in to check the status. Checking your application status can be done by logging into your portal page and clicking "View Checklist" above your pending application. To assist our staff to process your applications as efficiently as possible, please check out our frequently asked questions and NLC information on our website if you have questions regarding compact licensure. If you are the spouse of an active military member, have you downloaded the mail-in application?(Mail-in application and supporting documents are required. Do not submit online!) If you have legal history to report, do you have your supporting documentation? Note: Pursuant to K.A.R. 60-3-107 (b) applications for licensure while awaiting documentation of qualifications shall be active for 6 months. The expiration date of each application shall be based upon the date of the receipt at the agency. 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Once you get signed in: Click on "Exam | Endorsement | Multistate - Applications" on the left Select your profession Select the license you are applying for Select your obtained by method Endorsement This will make two more boxes appear Select where you are currently licensed Click "Start Application" You are now filling out the application. Once finished, checkout and print/save your receipt. If you leave your application for any reason, you will be able to pick it back up by logging in and clicking on "Continue" in the blue bar above your pending application. If the that link isn't there, check your cart.