Vermont Board of Nursing
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Refresher Options

Purpose
The mission of the Board of Nursing is to "safeguard life, health, and the public welfare of the people of this state." The Board accomplishes this mission by:

♦ Ensuring nursing competence
♦ Regulating nursing practice, and
♦ Promoting safe and effective nursing practice.

The Nurse Practice Act and the Nursing Administrative Rules specify competency requirements for all licensees to ensure public safety. Ongoing education and maintaining active practice hours by the APRN are required to demonstrate continued competency. The APRN who does not meet active practice requirements must complete a refresher course before they can be licensed as an APRN.

Refresher Options

1. Approved refresher program developed by the specialty certification organization

Several specialty organizations are developing refresher programs for APRNs in their area of practice. Consult directly with specialty organization for details about their program.

2. Approved refresher program at a university that prepares nurse practitioners

Some universities are developing APRN refresher programs in various specialties. Consult directly with colleges/universities for information about their program.

3. Vermont Board of Nursing refresher program (explained below)

The Vermont Board of Nursing Refresher Program

The Board of Nursing APRN Refresher Plan is designed for nurse practitioners who:

- are not currently practicing in the advanced practice nurse role; and
- who have either never practiced in the advanced role and graduated more than 2 years ago; or
- have not been active in practice in the APRN role for a minimum of 50 days (400 hours) in the two years preceding an initial or renewal application for APRN licensure or 120 days (960 hours) in the 5 years preceding application for APRN licensure.

The Board of Nursing APRN Refresher Plan provides a mechanism for advanced practice nurses who do not meet the licensure requirements to update their skills and knowledge of current clinical practice in their specialty area to meet the prevailing standards of practice.

General Information

The Nursing Administrative Rules outline the APRN Refresher Programs. The plan includes both theory and clinical components that must be planned and implemented in conjunction with an approved graduate APRN nursing education program. The theoretical component prepares the applicant in the areas of health promotion, health assessment, evidence based
practice (research), and the role of the nurse practitioner. The clinical component of this plan is important for applying the theoretical concepts.

The applicant must have an active Vermont RN license before beginning the APRN Refresher requirements. If the applicant has not been active in practice in the RN role for a minimum of two years preceding application for RN licensure or 120 days (960 hours) in the 5 years preceding application for RN licensure, a RN reentry program must be completed before the APRN refresher plan can be initiated.

**Refresher Plan**

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<th>Current Vermont RN license?</th>
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**Obtain Vermont RN license**

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<th>Current national certification in APRN role?</th>
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**Obtain current national certification in specialty**

**Refresher Program Requirements**

Program designed for refresher in area of role/population focus including:

- 3 academic credit hours of pharmacology content.

- (a) if the licensee has been out of practice for less than five years a minimum of:
  1. 150 hours of theory; and
  2. 200 hours of clinical experience

- (b) if the licensee has been out of practice for more than five years, but less than ten years a minimum of:
  1. 150 hours of theory and
  2. 400 hours of clinical experience

- If the licensee has been out of practice for practice for 10 years or more, a new graduate level APRN education program must be completed.
Process for Initiating Refresher Program

Application for approval of a plan for APRN Refresher must be submitted to the Board of Nursing before the applicant begins the program. The application is first reviewed and approved by the APRN Sub-Committee of the Board of Nursing and then by the full Board of Nursing. This process will take at least 45 days.

To begin an APRN Refresher Plan follow the steps listed below:

- Complete and submit the APRN Endorsement (was licensed in another US jurisdiction) or Renewal application (previously held a Vermont APRN license) with fee
- Complete and submit the APRN Refresher application with fee
- Submit the Refresher Program plan including:
  * Name of education facility (or facilities)
  * Name of faculty overseeing process
  * Projected education program including syllabi and course content outline
- Refresher clinical practice plan including:
  * Name of assigned clinical preceptor(s)/Preceptor(s) Curriculum Vitae
  * Beginning and projected end dates of the clinical experience with a preceptor
  * Name and description of facility/facilities where the clinical program will occur

The Refresher Permit will be issued when approved.

The program must be completed within 18 months of receiving approval by the APRN Sub-Committee.

Completion of the Refresher Program and Re-licensure

Upon completion of the APRN Refresher Program, the applicant must submit to the APRN Sub-Committee of the Board of Nursing the following documents:

- Completed “APRN Verification of Education Form for Refresher Program”
- Transcripts from academic institution attesting to successful completion of the academic portion of the refresher program
- Completed “APRN Verification of Clinical Hours Form for Refresher Program”

License to practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse is processed following approval by the Board of Nursing office. At the time of application for an APRN license, the applicant must have an unencumbered RN license. Applicants may not practice in the APRN role until a license is issued and practice guidelines are approved by the Board of Nursing office.