



Nurse Practitioners of Idaho Peer Review Program

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Overview of the Program

The Nurse Practitioner of Idaho organization offers a peer review process as a member benefit. The intent of the NPI process is to ease the burden of accomplishing quality and effective peer reviews for practicing nurse practitioners and to provide an organized framework to use in a consistent manner. Peer review is both a professional and statutory requirement for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN): Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS).

Definition of the Peer Review Process

Each CNP must participate in a peer review process. The mechanism for meeting this requirement is not strictly defined by the Idaho Board of Nursing, by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners or by the NPI.

Formal APRN peer review processes and structures promote practice autonomy, self-regulation, continuing professional development and help to manage risk, promote standards of practice, and promote patient safety and positive outcomes.

Peer review is the thoughtful analysis of assessments, diagnostic formulations, objective measurements, plans of care implementation and evaluation and a review of the overall outcomes of the provider/patient relationship. Peer review is the completion of this analysis by a provider of equal or greater preparation who has similar skills and who is qualified by education and licensure to provide the same or a similar level of care. For purposes of this peer review process of a nurse practitioner, another nurse practitioner with similar certification and training, physician, physician assistant or a similarly credentialed and licensed APRN is qualified to provide the peer review.



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Requirements of the Idaho Board of Nursing

The Idaho Administrative Code, under Rules of the Idaho Board of Nursing (IDAPA 23.01.01) 300.07(c), identifies the requirements of initial and re-licensure as a nurse practitioner including participation in a Peer Review process that is acceptable to the Idaho Board of Nursing. To evaluate compliance, each NP is asked to sign an attestation statement at the time of biennial licensure renewal, which is the odd numbered years in August, stating that they participated in such a peer review. A level one audit review is completed to insure that each applicant has completed this statement. The Board of Nursing then selects a NP sample for a level two audit process, whereby the NP is contacted to provide detailed evidence of peer review participation. From the level two sample, a level three audit process that involves an on-site review by a board of nursing auditor may be conducted.

The Idaho Board of Nursing does not mandate any one method to accomplish a peer review. There are multiple mechanisms to accomplish peer review and the regulatory purpose in mandating peer review is to insure to the public that nurse practitioners do not practice in isolation, participate with other providers in providing care and use a thoughtful review of their practice as one method of competency measure and continued learning.

Tools offered by Nurse Practitioners of Idaho to accomplish peer review.

1. Nurse Practitioners who are willing to serve as peer reviewers can register on the Nurse Practitioner of Idaho website, which requests the reviewer's practice setting, certification(s), types of reviews that they are willing to conduct and how to contact them.
2. Nurse Practitioners who wish to have a peer review conducted on their own practice can review the list of NPs who are willing to serve and independently contact the NP to facilitate the review.
3. A Peer Review Confidentiality Agreement is offered through NPI for individual NPs to use so that HIPAA requirements are identified and met.
4. Documentation of completed peer review can be provided to the individual NP either through an individual letter that details the outcomes of the review, or by submitting a completed Peer Review documentation form (sample attached). A Peer review summary report should identify:
 - Name and licensure of the reviewer
 - Date(s) of review
 - Number of records reviewed
 - Narrative of the review process without identifying specific patient information.
 - Overall assessment of the practice under review.
 - Comments and/or recommendations of the reviewer.