

## New Hampshire Board of Nursing

### Clinical Practice Advisory Regarding Camp Nursing

#### Licensure

To practice nursing in New Hampshire, you must hold an active NH license or a multi-state license from another compact state. This law applies to all nurses practicing in NH, regardless of how long they practice here. This means that if you are a nurse licensed in a state that is not a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact, you will need to obtain a NH nursing license and you will need to begin the application process in time to be licensed before your camp employment begins. As part of the licensing procedure you will need to have a criminal background check completed, which involves sending a notarized form to the NH State Police and having the NH State Police send a report to the Board of Nursing. Plan ahead!

Keep in mind the following definitions of "Registered nursing" and "Practical nursing" that are in the rules of the Board of nursing. You are held to these definitions in your practice regardless of the conditions of employment that you agree to. Review whatever definition applies to your license, and consider carefully whether you can act as a Registered or Practical nurse given the time commitments you are making to the camp:

Nur 101.06 "Practical nursing" means "practical nursing" as defined by the statute RSA 326-B:2, XVI. Review the definition in the statute which is found at:  
[www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XXX/326-B/326-B-2.htm](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XXX/326-B/326-B-2.htm).

Nur 101.08 "Registered nursing" means "registered nursing" as defined in the statute RSA 326-B:2, XVIII. Review the definition in the statute which is found at:  
[www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XXX/326-B/326-B-2.htm](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XXX/326-B/326-B-2.htm).

Camps in NH are governed by a set of administrative rules written by the [Department of Environmental Services](#).

The [New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy](#) advises you to direct questions relative to state and federal drug laws to the Board of Pharmacy by calling (603) 271-2350 and asking to speak to a compliance inspector.

Important points to consider prior to accepting employment as a camp nurse:

- Be clear about who you will be supervising and what tasks they will be completing under your license.
- Be sure to review the Board of Nursing's regulations about delegation, [Nur 404](#). There are several factors to be taken into consideration when delegating tasks of client care to unlicensed personnel, and you need to know them and be comfortable that you can abide by them before you make a commitment to supervise unlicensed personnel.

- Think about what time commitments you can make and realistically continue to maintain sound nursing judgment. What exactly are the hours that you are on duty? Are the terms of your employment clear about exactly when you are and are not responsible for the well-being of the campers? Who will be responsible when you are off-duty? Are there sufficient nursing staff hired to provide the needed 24/7 coverage?
- How many people will you be responsible for (campers and staff)? How many medication passes? How will you accept medications at camp? What about international campers and OTC medications? Each camp needs clear policies regarding medications.
- Ensure that the standing orders for your camp that are written by the Medical Director are consistent with the signed parental authorizations to administer that each camper should have.
- What will your responsibility be for lice checks and treatment? Is it consistent with standing orders or will you require separate permission to treat?
- Contagious diseases, the State of New Hampshire has Public Health Nurse Coordinators who will be able to help you take steps to contain outbreaks as well as inform you of reporting obligations.

Helpful links:

Association of Camp Nurses Link:

[http://www.acn.org/edcenter/acn\\_practice\\_guidelines\\_for\\_camp\\_nurses\\_in\\_the\\_us.php?guide=medication\\_management\\_for\\_day\\_and\\_resident\\_camps#guide](http://www.acn.org/edcenter/acn_practice_guidelines_for_camp_nurses_in_the_us.php?guide=medication_management_for_day_and_resident_camps#guide)

American Camp Association's article "Managing Medications at Camp":

<http://www.acacamps.org/campline/s-2000/managing-monitoring-and-administering>

<http://www.acacamps.org/campline/spring-2014/medication-management%20>

Medscape "Camp Nurse Responsibilities":

[http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/560630\\_4](http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/560630_4)

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 Division of Public Health Services  
 NH Department of Health & Human Services  
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