

It is the New Hampshire Board of Nursing's position that a doctorly prepared registered nurse can use the prefix doctor while in all settings if they have earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) or a Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing (Ph.D) degree from a nationally accredited nursing school.

Other professions use the prefix doctor or Dr. that have practice doctorates in all settings such as Dentists (DDS or DMD), Pharmacists (PharmD), Physical Therapists (DPT), Psychologists (PsyD), Podiatric Medicine (DPM), Chiropractic Medicine (DC), Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD), Naturopathic Medicine (ND), and Optometrists (OD). These highly educated professionals are not physicians but are respected experts within their field. The above professionals are all licensed by their respective boards and their practice is outlined in New Hampshire statute and the rules of those individual licensing boards. Therefore, The New Hampshire Board of Nursing's position is that an APRN with a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Ph.D) is not practicing medicine in a patient care setting when they refer to themselves a Doctor or Dr., but practicing nursing at the highest level of their nursing education.

Dentists (DDS or DMD), Pharmacists (PharmD), Physical Therapists (DPT), Psychologists (PsyD), Podiatric Medicine (DPM), Chiropractic Medicine (DC), Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD), Naturopathic Medicine (ND), Optometrists (OD), Medical Physicians (MD), or Osteopathic Physicians (DO) are not licensed by their respective licensing boards as doctors and the term Doctor or Dr. is not exclusive to any one of the above professions. However, they all have earned a high level of education and are experts within their respective disciplines in the healthcare system and should be acknowledged as such should they choose to do so. The Board of Nursing encourages transparency in all settings should any confusion arise about the license a practitioner holds with the state of New Hampshire.

Respectfully
New Hampshire Board of Nursing