



BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
PO Box 944210, Sacramento, CA 94244-2100
P (916) 322-3350 F (916) 574-8637 | www.rn.ca.gov
Louise R. Bailey, MEd, RN, Executive Officer

USE OF TITLE: REGISTERED NURSE AND NAME TAGS

Nursing Practice Act: <http://www.rn.ca.gov/regulations/bpc.shtml#2732>

2732. Licensure requirement; Use of "R.N."

No person shall engage in the practice of nursing, as defined in Section 2725, without holding a license which is in an active status issued under this chapter except as otherwise provided in this act. Every licensee may be known as a registered nurse and may place the letters "R.N." after his or her name.

Legislation enacted during the 1997-1998 Session

Effective January 1, 1999 (Granlund) Chapter 1013 is an act to Section 1. Article 7.5 (commencing with 680) is added to Chapter 1 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.

The title registered nurse is now protected by law effective January 1, 1999 requires health care practitioners to wear a name tag while working that discloses their name and practitioner license status in at least 18-point type. In psychiatric settings or in settings not licensed by the state, employers have the discretion to not require name tags if there are individual safety or therapeutic concerns. Also, if the practitioner's license is prominently displayed in a practice or an office, name tags are not required.

In the interest of public safety and consumer awareness, it shall be unlawful for any person to use the title "nurse" by any individual except for an individual who is registered nurse or a licensed vocational nurse. This law does not prohibit certified nurses' aides from using their specific title.

SECTION 1. Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 680) is added to Chapter 1 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, to read:

Article 7.5. Health Care Practitioners

680. Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a health care practitioner shall disclose, while working, his or her name and practitioner's license status, as granted by this state, on a name tag in at least 18-point type. A health care practitioner in a practice or an office, whose license is prominently displayed, may opt to not wear a name tag. If a health care practitioner or a licensed clinical social worker is working in a psychiatric setting or in a setting that is not licensed by the state, the employing entity or agency shall have the discretion to make an exception from the name tag requirement for individual safety or therapeutic concerns. In the interest of public safety and consumer awareness, it shall be unlawful for any person to use the title "nurse" in reference to himself or herself and in any capacity, except for an individual who is a registered nurse, or a licensed vocational nurse, or as otherwise provided in Section 2800. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a certified nurse's aide from using his or her title. For purposes of this article, "health care practitioner" means any person who engages in acts that are the subject of licensure or regulation under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division.

SEC. 2. Section 5251 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5251. For a person to be certified under this article, a notice of certification shall be signed by two people. The first person shall be the professional person, or his or her designee, in charge of the agency or facility providing evaluation services. A designee of the professional person in charge of the agency or facility shall be a physician or a licensed psychologist who has a doctoral degree in psychology and at least five years of postgraduate experience in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders.

The second person shall be a physician or psychologist who participated in the evaluation. The physician shall be, if possible, a board certified psychiatrist. The psychologist shall be licensed and have at least five years of postgraduate experience in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders.

If the professional person in charge, or his or her designee, is the physician who performed the medical evaluation or a psychologist, the second person to sign may be another physician or psychologist unless one is not available, in which case a licensed clinical social worker or a registered nurse who participated in the evaluation shall sign the notice of certification.