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*A Position Statement does not carry the force and effect of law and rules but is adopted by the Board as a means of providing direction to licensees who seek to engage in safe nursing practice. Board Position Statements address issues of concern to the Board relevant to protection of the public and are reviewed regularly for relevance and accuracy to current practice, the Nursing Practice Act, and Board Administrative Code Rules.*

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The terms “certified” or “board certified” are regarded by the public as evidence of the skill and qualifications of a health care provider carrying this designation. In order to avoid confusion to the consuming public regarding nurse practitioner certification, nurse practitioners (NPs) are expected to meet the following guidelines.

No nurse practitioner shall hold himself or herself out to the public as being “certified” or “board certified” without proof of current certification by one of the following certification boards: (1) American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC); (2) American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB); (3) Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PCNB); (4) National Certification Corporation (NCC); or (5) American Association of Critical Care Nurses Certification Corporation (AACN). Any certification obtained by an NP, in addition to the above which are required for approval to practice for NPs graduating after January 1, 2000, must be from a nationally recognized nursing specialty organization with national standing.

Any NP who has been approved to practice and is holding himself or herself out to the public as “certified” or “board certified” in any advertising should disclose in the advertisement the certification board by which the NP is currently certified and the area of certification (e.g., FNP, ANP, etc.). If “BC” or “C” is used to reflect certification, the name of the certifying organization may also be abbreviated. However, if “board certified” or “certified” is used, the name of the certification organization must be written out. An NP is expected to maintain and provide to the Board of Nursing evidence of current board certification.

Business letterheads, envelopes, cards, yellow pages, newspaper and internet advertising and similar materials are considered to be forms of advertising and publicity for the purpose of this Position Statement.

**References:**

G.S. 90-171.37

21 NCAC 36.0812

21 NCAC 32M.0112

G.S. 90-640

Approved: 9-2011

Revised: 12-2015; 3.2019; 10.2019