

**Overview of Licensing Requirements and Scope of Practice Requirements in Current Maine Law and Rule:
Certified Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Physicians**

	Certified Nurse Practitioner	Physician Assistant	Physician
Requirement for Education/Pre-qualification in Statute/Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License as registered nurse (RN) (clinical requirements must be met) • Masters' level graduate program for nurse practitioner (minimum); • Clinical practice/training requirements included in graduate program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters' level graduate program (minimum); • Clinical practice/training requirements included in graduate program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 -year medical school (minimum) • 3- year residency program (minimum) including clinical practice/training requirements
Requirement for National Exam/Certification in Statute/Rule	Yes, in specific specialty area (family NP; adult & geriatric NP; women's NP; pediatric NP; acute care NP; or psychiatric mental health NP)	Yes	Yes
Requirement for Supervision or Practice Agreement in Statute/Rule	24 months of supervision by physician or supervising nurse practitioner in same practice category	Less than 4000 hours with collaborative agreement; More than 4000 hours independent practice with practice agreement (<i>changed by 129th Legislature</i>)	None in statute or rule
Requirement for Continuing Education in Statute/Rule	50 hours every 2 years	100 hours every 2 years (at least 50 in Category 1*) *Category 1 generally means approved, sponsored CME programs	40 hours (Category 1*) every 2 years * Category 1 generally means approved, sponsored CME programs
Requirement for Liability Insurance or Malpractice Insurance in Statute/Rule	No	No	No

	Certified Nurse Practitioner	Physician Assistant	Physician
Provisions Related to Scope of Practice in Statute/Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall provide only those health care services for which the certified nurse practitioner is educationally and clinically prepared, and for which competency has been maintained. The Board, in its discretion, reserves the right to make exceptions. • Such health care services, for which the certified nurse practitioner is independently responsible and accountable, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ obtaining a complete health data base that includes a health history, physical examination, and screening and diagnostic evaluation; ▪ interpreting health data by identifying wellness and risk factors and variations from norms; ▪ diagnosing and treating common diseases and human responses to actual and potential health problems; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May provide any medical service for which the physician assistant has been prepared by education, training and experience and is competent to perform. • Determined by the practice setting. • May render medical services in the following settings including, but not limited to a physician employer setting, physician group practice setting or independent private practice setting, or in a health care facility setting • Delineated in collaborative agreements or practice agreements and subject to review and approval by the Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May practice medicine or surgery or a branch of medicine or surgery by diagnosing, relieving in any degree or curing, or professing or attempting to diagnose, relieve or cure a human disease, ailment, defect or complaint, whether physical or mental, or of physical and mental origin, by attendance or by advice, or by prescribing or furnishing a drug, medicine, appliance, manipulation, method or a therapeutic agent whatsoever or in any other manner.

	Certified Nurse Practitioner	Physician Assistant	Physician
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ counseling individuals and families; ▪ consulting and/or collaborating with other health care providers and community resources; and ▪ referring client to other health care providers and community resources. 		

Statutory and Rule Sources:

Certified Nurse Practitioners, [32 MRSA Chapter 31](#); [State Board of Nursing Rule Chapter 8](#)

Physician Assistants, [32 MRSA §2594-E](#) and [§2594-F](#) (osteopathic); 32 MRSA [§3270-E](#) and [§3270-G](#); [Joint Rule Board of Licensure in Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Licensure Chapter 2](#)

Physicians, [32 MRSA Chapter 48](#); [Board of Licensure in Medicine Rule Chapter 1](#)