

Arkansas State Board of Nursing: Differences Between RNPs and APRNs

	<u>RNP</u>	<u>APRN</u>
Degree Requirement	Certificate or graduate degree (RNP program)	Graduate (Master's) or Post-Graduate (Doctorate) degree (APRN program)
Board-Approved National Certification	Not required	Required
Scope of Practice	Defined by protocols developed in collaboration with and signed by a licensed physician	Defined by educational preparation, continuing education, competence, and certification specialty.
Protocols for Prescribing/Ordering	Required for practice; bound by established procedures for the management of common medical problems, including the degree to which collaboration, independent action and supervision by the physician are required.	Required only for the prescribing of medications and therapeutic devices
Physician Supervision	Determined by protocols	Not required for acts within scope of practice
Physician on site or within a parameter	Not required	Not required
Orders co-signed by a physician	Per facility policy	Not required
Prescriptive Authority	No – transmits orders from the established protocols to the client's medical or inpatient record	Yes, if a Prescriptive Authority Certificate number is obtained; prescribes medication and therapeutic devices based on assessment and diagnosis. A Collaborative Practice Agreement is required.
Collaborative Practice Agreement	No – practice based on protocols	Yes, for Prescriptive Authority
DEA number / Controlled Substance Prescribing	Not eligible for a DEA number; cannot order controlled substances without a written or verbal order from a physician or APRN	Eligible to apply for a DEA number after obtaining a Prescriptive Authority Certificate number; limited to prescribing Schedules III-V.