

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

To: Nurse Practitioners Certified by the New York State Education Department
From: Barbara Zittel, Executive Secretary, New York State Board for Nursing
Subject: Age Limitations for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

In 2003 the Nursing Board provided a memorandum regarding age limitations for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. The age of 18 was cited as an upper limit guideline for Pediatric NPs as that age was legally defensible since it is the age of majority in New York. The position statement, however, also indicated that "...in certain circumstances, as are determined by the Nurse Practitioner and the collaborating physician, a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner may treat an individual beyond that age limit....These special circumstances shall be stated in the collaborative agreement on file in the practice setting. It is expected that those individuals who undertake such practice will have education and training to be competent in providing care for this older age-group".

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify that based on positions of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) and the American Medical Association's *Guidelines for Adolescent Preventive Services*, the Nursing Board now defines birth through 21 years of age as the acceptable standard of care for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. As defined in the 2003 memorandum, special circumstances beyond that age limitation should be specified in the collaborative agreement.

We hope this clarification is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the New York State Board for Nursing at the State Education Building, 2nd floor, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234, by phone 518-474-3817 ext. 120, or by e-mail nursebd@mail.nysed.gov.

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