

"Registered Nurse (R.N.)" Protection

As of April, 2013

State	Statute / Regulation	Relevant Text	Status
	AL Code § 34-21-7	<p>Any person or persons who practices practical nursing as defined in this chapter, unless duly licensed to do so under the provisions hereof; or uses in connection with his or her name any designation implying or tending to imply that he or she is a licensed professional nurse and licensed to practice as a registered nurse, or a practical nurse licensed to practice practical nursing as a licensed practical nurse, unless duly licensed to practice under the provisions of this chapter; or after January 1, 1968, practices professional nursing or, after January 1, 1971, practices practical nursing during the time his or her license issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be suspended, revoked, or has expired; or knowingly conceals information relating to violations of this chapter; or otherwise violates any of the provisions of this chapter, shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and upon conviction.</p>	Effective
Alabama	AL Code § 22-21-9	<p>Name tags, etc., required for nurses.</p> <p>(a) Each health care provider and facility in Alabama which employs or contracts for the employment of one or more registered nurses shall require each registered nurse to wear a name tag, badge, or pin with the letters "R.N." printed on the name tag, badge, or pin while the nurse is providing direct patient care.</p> <p>(b) Each health care provider and facility in Alabama which employs or contracts for the employment of one or more licensed practical nurses shall require each licensed practical nurse to wear a name tag, badge, or pin with the letters "L.P.N." printed on the name tag, badge, or pin while the nurse is providing direct patient care.</p> <p>(d) No health care provider or facility may allow employees not licensed as registered nurses or licensed practical nurses to wear name tags, badges, or pins which have the word "nurse" or "nursing" thereon.</p>	Effective

<p>Alaska</p>	<p>AK Statute Sec. § 08.02.010</p>	<p>A registered nurse shall use as professional identification appropriate letters or a title after that person's name that represents the person's specific field of practice. The letters or title shall appear on all signs, stationery, or other advertising in which the person offers or displays personal professional services to the public. (b) A person subject to (a) of this section who fails to comply with the requirements of (a) of this section shall be given notice of noncompliance by that person's appropriate licensing board or, if the person is not regulated by a board, by the department. If, after a reasonable time, with opportunity for a hearing, the person's noncompliance continues, the board or department, as appropriate, may suspend or revoke the person's license or registration, or administer other disciplinary action which in its determination is appropriate.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Arizona</p>	<p>AZ Revised Statute § 32-1636</p>	<p>A. Only a person who holds a valid and current license to practice registered nursing in this state or in a party state pursuant to section 32-1668 may use the title "nurse", "registered nurse", "graduate nurse" or "professional nurse" or the abbreviation "R.N.".</p> <p>B. Only a person who holds a valid and current license to practice practical nursing in this state or in a party state as defined in section 32-1668 may use the title "nurse", "licensed practical nurse" or "practical nurse" or the abbreviation "L.P.N.".</p>	<p>Effective</p>

<p>Arkansas</p>	<p>AR Statute § 17-87-104</p>	<p>(a)(1) It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to: (D) Use in connection with his or her name any of the following titles, names, or initials, if the user is not properly licensed under this chapter: (i) Nurse; (ii) Registered nurse or R.N.; (iii) Advanced practice nurse or A.P.N., or any of the following: (a) Advanced registered nurse practitioner, A.R.N.P., or A.N.P.; (b) Nurse anesthetist, certified nurse anesthetist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or C.R.N.A.; or (d) Clinical nurse specialist or C.N.S.; (iv) Registered nurse practitioner, N.P., or R.N.P.; (v) Licensed practical nurse, practical nurse, or L.P.N.; (vii) Any other name, title, or initials that would cause a reasonable person to believe the user is licensed under this chapter</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>California</p>	<p>CA Business and Professions Code § 2795</p>	<p>it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following: (a) To practice or to offer to practice nursing in this state unless the person holds a license in an active status. (b) To use any title, sign, card, or device to indicate that he or she is qualified to practice or is practicing nursing, unless the person has been duly licensed or certified under this chapter.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>California</p>	<p>CA Business and Professions Code § 2796</p>	<p>It is unlawful for any person or persons not licensed or certified as provided in this chapter to use the title "registered nurse," the letters "R.N. ," or the words "graduate nurse," "trained nurse," or "nurse anesthetist." It is unlawful for any person or persons not licensed or certified as provided in this chapter to impersonate a professional nurse or pretend to be licensed to practice professional nursing as provided in this chapter.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

<p>Colorado</p>	<p>CO Revised Statute § 12-38-123</p>	<p>Any person who practices or offers or attempts to practice practical or professional nursing without an active license issued under this article commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501, C.R.S., for the first offense, and for the second or any subsequent offense, the person commits a class 6 felony</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Connecticut</p>	<p>CT Revised Statutes § Sec. 20-102</p>	<p>No person shall, for remuneration, practice nursing as defined in subsection (a) of section 20-87a, in this state unless such person has received a certificate as a registered nurse or a license as an advanced practice registered nurse and no person shall practice advanced nursing practice as defined in subsection (b) of said section unless such person has received a license as an advanced practice registered nurse and no person shall, for remuneration, practice nursing as defined in subsection (c) of said section unless such person has been certified as a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse or licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter or who willfully makes false representation to the Board of Examiners for Nursing shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than five years or both. Said board shall cause to be presented to the prosecuting officer having jurisdiction evidence of any violation of any such provision. For purposes of this section each instance of patient contact or consultation which is in violation of any provision of this section shall constitute a separate offense.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

<p>Delaware</p>	<p>DE Code 24 § 1925</p>	<p>Whoever shall:</p> <p>(1) Sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish any nursing diploma, license or renewal, or record of the same, or aid or abet therein; or</p> <p>(2) Practice professional or practical nursing and/or hold or represent himself or herself as a registered or licensed practical nurse under cover of any diploma, license or record illegally or fraudulently obtained, signed or issued; or</p> <p>(3) Practice professional or practical nursing unless licensed under this chapter; or</p> <p>(4) Use, in connection with that person's name any designation tending to imply that the person is a registered or practical nurse, unless licensed under this chapter; or</p> <p>(5) Practice professional or practical nursing when that person's license is suspended or revoked; or</p> <p>(6) Conduct a professional or practical nursing education program which has not been approved by the Board; or</p> <p>(7) Knowingly employ a graduate of a professional or practical nursing program or a registered nurse or a practical nurse to engage in the practice of nursing without a valid temporary permit or license from the Board; or</p> <p>(8) Violate standards of nursing practice as adopted by the Board; shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or be imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>District of Columbia</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Florida</p>	<p>FL Statute § 464.015</p>	<p>1) Only persons who hold licenses to practice professional nursing in this state or who are performing nursing services pursuant to the exception set forth in s. 464.022(8) shall have the right to use the title “Registered Nurse” and the abbreviation “R.N.”</p> <p>(9) A person may not practice or advertise as, or assume the title of, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, clinical nurse specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse midwife, or advanced registered nurse practitioner or use the abbreviation “R.N.,” “L.P.N.,” “C.N.S.,” “C.R.N.A.,” “C.N.M.,” or “A.R.N.P.” or take any other action that would lead the public to believe that person was certified as such or is performing nursing services pursuant to the exception set forth in s. 464.022(8), unless that person is licensed or certified to practice as such.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>
		<p>(10) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">Georgia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GA Code § 43-26-6</p>	<p>(a) Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse shall have the right to use the title "registered professional nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." Any person recognized by the board as an advanced practice registered nurse shall have the right to use the title "advanced practice registered nurse" and the abbreviation "A.P.R.N." No other person shall assume such titles or use such abbreviations or any other words, letters, signs, or symbols to indicate that such person is a registered professional nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse in Georgia. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to repeal the right of any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse or recognized by the board as an advanced practice registered nurse on June 30, 2006, to be licensed and to use the title "registered professional nurse" or to use the title "advanced practice registered nurse," respectively.</p> <p>(c) Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse shall identify that he or she is so licensed by displaying either the title "registered professional nurse" or "registered nurse," the abbreviation "R.N.," the title "advanced practice registered nurse," or the abbreviation "A.P.R.N." on a name tag or other similar form of identification during times when such person is providing direct patient care. An advanced practice registered nurse shall meet the identification requirements of this subsection by displaying the title or abbreviation of his or her area of specialization.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Hawaii</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HI Revised Statutes § 457-14</p>	<p>It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, including any corporation, association, or individual to:</p> <p>(1) Sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish any nursing diploma, license, renewal, or record or aid or abet therein; or</p> <p>(2) Practice nursing as defined by this chapter under cover of any diploma, license, or record illegally or fraudulently signed or issued unlawfully or under fraudulent representation; or</p> <p>(3) Practice nursing as a registered or as a licensed practical nurse unless licensed to practice under this chapter; or</p> <p>(4) Use in connection with the person's name any designation tending to imply that the person is a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse unless licensed to practice under this chapter; or</p> <p>(5) Practice nursing as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse during the time the person's license issued under this chapter is suspended or revoked; or</p> <p>(6) Conduct a nursing education program not accredited by the board to prepare for a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse unless the program has been accredited by the board; or</p> <p>(7) Otherwise violate any provision of this chapter.</p> <p>Any of these misdemeanors shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 for a first offense. Each subsequent offense shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>
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<p>Idaho</p>	<p>ID CODE § 54-1414</p>	<p>(1) It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation, association or other legal entity to: (c) Falsely represent by use of any designation, title, or statement, that he is licensed pursuant to this chapter; or (2) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300) or by imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months or both such fine and imprisonment.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Illinois</p>	<p>225 IL Statutes § 65/50-50</p>	<p>No person shall: (6) Use any words, abbreviations, figures, letters, title, sign, card, or device tending to imply that she or he is a registered professional nurse, including the titles or initials, "Nurse," "Registered Nurse," "Professional Nurse," "Registered Professional Nurse," "Certified Nurse," "Trained Nurse," "Graduate Nurse," "P.N.," or "R.N.," or "R.P.N." or similar titles or initials with intention of indicating practice without a valid license as a registered professional nurse <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Use any words, abbreviations, figures, letters, titles, signs, cards, or devices tending to imply that she or he is an advanced practice nurse, including the titles or initials "Advanced Practice Nurse", "A.P.N.", or similar titles or initials, with the intention of indicating practice as an advanced practice nurse without a valid license as an advanced practice nurse under this Act. <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Use any words, abbreviations figures, letters, title, sign, card, or device tending to imply that she or he is a licensed practical nurse including the titles or initials "Practical Nurse," "Licensed Practical Nurse," "P.N.," or "L.P.N.," or similar titles or initials with intention of indicated practice as a licensed practical nurse without a valid license as a licensed practical nurse under this Act <input type="checkbox"/> (b) Any person, including a firm, association or corporation who violates any provision of this Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

<p>Indiana</p>	<p>IN Code § 25-23-1-27</p>	<p>A person who:</p> <p>(3) practices nursing as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse unless licensed to do so</p> <p>(4) uses in connection with the person's name any designation tending to imply that the person is a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse unless licensed to practice</p> <p>commits a Class B misdemeanor</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Iowa</p>	<p>IA Code § 152.6</p>	<p>The board may license a natural person to practice as a registered nurse or as a licensed practical nurse. However, only a person currently licensed as a registered nurse in this state may use that title and the abbreviation “RN” after the person’s name and only a person currently licensed as a licensed practical nurse in this state may use that title and the abbreviation “LPN” after the person’s name. For purposes of this section, “currently licensed” includes persons licensed in another state and recognized for licensure in this state pursuant to the nurse licensure compact or pursuant to the advanced practice registered nurse compact</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Kansas</p>	<p>KS Statute § 65-1114</p>	<p>(a) It shall be unlawful for any person:</p> <p>(2) to use any title, abbreviation, letters, figures, sign, card or device to indicate that any person is a registered professional nurse</p> <p>(4) to use any title, abbreviation, letters, figures, sign, card or device to indicate that any person is a licensed practical nurse, unless such person has been duly licensed under the provisions of this act</p> <p>(5) to use any title, abbreviation, letters, figures, sign, card or device to indicate that any person is an advanced practice registered nurse, unless such person has been duly issued a license as an advanced practice registered nurse under the Kansas nurse practice act</p>	<p>Effective</p>

Kentucky	KY. Revised Statute § 314.041	Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume the title or use the abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a registered nurse. No person shall practice as a registered nurse unless licensed under this section.	Effective
	KY. Revised Statute § 314.051	Any person who holds a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "licensed practical nurse" and the abbreviation "L.P.N." No other person shall assume the title or use the abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a licensed practical nurse. No person shall practice as a licensed practical nurse unless licensed under this chapter.	Effective
Louisiana	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maine	ME Statute 32 § 2208	An individual who holds a current license to practice professional nursing in this State has the right to use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other individual may assume the title or use the abbreviation or other words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the individual using the same is a registered nurse.	Effective
Maryland	MD Statute Health Occupations § 8-703	Unless authorized to practice registered nursing under this title, a person may not use the words or terms "registered nurse", the abbreviation "R.N.", or any other title, symbol, abbreviation, sign, card, device, or other representation with the intent to represent that the person practices registered nursing.	Effective
Massachusetts	MA Laws CH. 112 § 80	Whoever, not being lawfully authorized to practice as a registered nurse within the commonwealth, practices or attempts to practice professional nursing or uses the abbreviation R.N., or any other words, letters or figures to indicate that the person using the same is such a registered nurse, shall, except as provided in section sixty-five, be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars	Effective

<p>Michigan</p>	<p>MI Compiled Laws § 333.17211</p>	<p>(1) A person shall not engage in the practice of nursing or the practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse unless licensed or otherwise authorized by this article.</p> <p>(2) The following words, titles, or letters or a combination thereof, with or without qualifying words or phrases, are restricted in use only to those persons authorized under this part to use the terms and in a way prescribed in this part: "registered professional nurse", "registered nurse", "r.n.", "licensed practical nurse", "l.p.n.", "nurse midwife", "nurse anesthetist", "nurse practitioner", "trained attendant", and "t.a."</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Minnesota</p>	<p>MN Statute § 148.281</p>	<p>It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation, firm, or association, to use any abbreviation or other designation tending to imply licensure as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse unless duly licensed and currently registered so to practice professional or practical nursing under the provisions of sections 148.171 to 148.285 except as authorized by the board by rule</p> <p>Any person, corporation, or association violating this provision shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and shall be punished according to law.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Mississippi</p>	<p>MS Code § 73-15-33</p>	<p>It is unlawful for any person, including a corporation or association, to use any title, designation or abbreviation by which a person presents to the public that he or she is a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse or any other type of nurse, unless the person is duly licensed or privileged to practice under the provisions of this article; however, this paragraph does not prohibit a certified nurse assistant or certified nursing assistant from using the word "nurse" or "nursing" as part of his or her job title.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

		<p>Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$ 100.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$ 1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than twelve (12) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.</p>	
<p>Missouri</p>	<p>MO Revised Statute § 335.076</p>	<p>Any person who holds a license to practice professional nursing in this state may use the title "Registered Professional Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N.". No other person shall use the title "Registered Professional Nurse" or the abbreviation "R.N.". No other person shall assume any title or use any abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or devices to indicate that the person using the same is a registered professional nurse.</p> <p>No person shall practice or offer to practice professional nursing, practical nursing, or advanced practice nursing in this state or use any title, sign, abbreviation, card, or device to indicate that such person is a practicing professional nurse, practical nurse, or advanced practice nurse unless he or she has been duly licensed under the provisions of this chapter.</p> <p>In the interest of public safety and consumer awareness, it is unlawful for any person to use the title "nurse" in reference to himself or herself in any capacity, except individuals who are or have been licensed as a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or advanced practice registered nurse under this chapter.</p> <p>Any person who violates any of these provisions is guilty of a class D felony and, upon conviction, shall be punished as provided by law</p>	<p>Effective</p>
		<p>Any person who holds a valid license to practice as a registered professional nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N.".</p>	

Montana	MT CODE § 37-8-408	It is a misdemeanor for a person, including a corporation, association, or individual, to use in connection with the person's name any designation tending to imply that the person is a registered professional nurse or a licensed practical nurse unless licensed to practice. The misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 for the first offense. Each subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of \$300, by imprisonment of not more than 6 months in the county jail, or both.	Effective
Nebraska	NE Revised Statute § 38-228	In the interest of public safety and consumer awareness, it is unlawful for any person to use the title nurse in reference to himself or herself in any capacity, except individuals who are or have been licensed as a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse. A Christian Science nurse may refer to himself or herself only as a Christian Science nurse.	Effective
	NE Revised Statute § 38-229	Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in this state has the right to use the title Registered Nurse and the abbreviation R.N. No other person shall assume or use such title or abbreviation or any words, letters, signs, or devices to indicate that the person using the same is authorized to practice registered nursing.	Effective
Nevada	NV Revised Statute § 632.315	Any person who practices or offers to practice nursing in this State or uses any title, abbreviation, sign, card or device to indicate that he or she is practicing nursing in this State unless that person has been licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.	Effective
New Hampshire	NH Revised Statute § 326-B:41	It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to Use, in connection with the individual's name, any designation tending to imply licensure as an RN, an LPN, or an LNA unless so licensed. Any person who violates this statute shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor if a natural person or guilty of a felony if any other person.	Effective

<p>New Jersey</p>	<p>NJ Revised Statutes § 45:11-26</p>	<p>It shall be unlawful for any person to represent in any way that such person is a registered nurse or to use after his or her name the abbreviation "R.N." unless such person holds an effective, unsuspended license as a professional nurse. Every person violating this provision shall be subject to a penalty of \$200.00 for each violation, and if after conviction as hereinafter provided such person shall again violate any provision of this act, such person shall be subject to a penalty of \$500.00 for each subsequent offense.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>New Mexico</p>	<p>NM Statute § 61-3-30</p>	<p>It is a misdemeanor for a person to use in connection with his name a designation tending to imply that such person is a registered nurse unless duly licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Nursing Practice Act.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>New York</p>	<p>NY Code Title VIII § 139-6039</p>	<p>Only a person licensed or otherwise authorized under this article shall practice nursing and only a person licensed under section sixty-nine hundred five of this article shall use the title "registered professional nurse". No person shall use the title "nurse" or any other title or abbreviation that would represent to the public that the person is authorized to practice nursing unless the person is licensed or otherwise authorized under this article.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>North Carolina</p>	<p>NC General Statute § 90-171.43</p>	<p>No person shall practice or offer to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, or use the word "nurse" as a title for herself or himself, or use an abbreviation to indicate that the person is a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, unless the person is currently licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse as provided by this Article. If the word "nurse" is part of a longer title, such as "nurse's aide", a person who is entitled to use that title shall use the entire title and may not abbreviate the title to "nurse". The violation of this Article shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

<p>North Dakota</p>	<p>ND Century Code § 43-12.1-03</p>	<p>Any person who provides nursing care to a resident of this state must hold a current license or registration issued by the board. It is unlawful for a person to practice nursing, offer to practice nursing, assist in the practice of nursing, or use any title, abbreviation, or designation to indicate that the person is practicing nursing or assisting in the practice of nursing in this state unless that person is currently licensed or registered under this chapter. A currently licensed advanced practice registered nurse or specialty practice registered nurse may use titles approved by the board; a currently licensed registered nurse may use the abbreviation "R.N."; a currently licensed practical nurse may use the abbreviation "L.P.N."; and an unlicensed assistive person with current registration may use the title identified by the employer. A person may not use the title "nurse" or be referred to as a "nurse" unless licensed by the board.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Ohio</p>	<p>OH Revised Code § 4723.03</p>	<p>No person shall engage in the practice of nursing as a registered nurse, represent the person as being a registered nurse, or use the title "registered nurse," the initials "R.N.," or any other title implying that the person is a registered nurse, for a fee, salary, or other consideration, or as a volunteer, without holding a current, valid license as a registered nurse under this chapter. Whoever violates this is guilty of a felony of the fifth degree on a first offense and a felony of the fourth degree on each subsequent offense.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Oklahoma</p>	<p>OK Statute § 59-567.5</p>	<p>Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in this state shall have the right to use both the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation, or any other words, letters, signs or figures to indicate that the person using the same is a registered nurse. Any individual doing so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, which shall be punishable, upon conviction, by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year or by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such imprisonment and fine for each offense.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Oregon</p>	<p>OR Revised Statute §678.021</p>	<p>It shall be unlawful for any person to practice nursing or offer to practice nursing in this state or to use any title or abbreviation, sign, card or device to indicate the person is practicing either practical or registered nursing unless the person is licensed under ORS 678.010 to 678.410 at the level for which the indication of practice is made and the license is valid and in effect.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

<p>Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Section 3 of the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), "The Professional Nursing Law"</p>	<p>Any person who holds a license to practice professional nursing in this Commonwealth, or who is maintained on inactive status in accordance with section 11 of this act, shall have the right to use the [title] titles "nurse" and "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall engage in the practice of professional nursing or use the [title] titles "nurse" or "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "R.N." to indicate that the person using the same is a registered nurse.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Rhode Island</p>	<p>RI General Laws §5-34-2</p>	<p>It is unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice nursing in this state or to use any title, sign, abbreviation, card, or device indicating authority to practice nursing unless that person is licensed and registered under the provisions of this chapter or by the compact set forth in chapter 5-34.3. It is a misdemeanor for any person, firm, corporation, or association to violate this provision and is punishable by a fine of not less than three hundred dollars (\$300) for the first offense. Each subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500), or by imprisonment of not more than one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>South Carolina</p>	<p>SC Code §40-33-30</p>	<p>(B) It is unlawful for a person to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse, a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse in this State, or to use the abbreviation "APRN", "RN", or "LPN" or any variation or sub designation of these, or use any title, sign, card, or device to indicate that the person is a nurse, or that the person is practicing as a nurse, within the meaning of this chapter, unless the person is actively licensed under the provisions of this chapter.</p> <p>(C) A person may not use the word "nurse" as a title, or use an abbreviation to indicate that the person is practicing in this State as a nurse, unless the person is actively licensed as a nurse as provided for in this chapter. If the term "nurse" is part of a longer title, such as "nurse's aide", a person who is entitled to use that title shall use the entire title and may not abbreviate the title to " nurse". This does not prohibit the use of the title "nurse" by persons who hold a temporary permit pending licensure by endorsement from another jurisdiction, and it does not prohibit the use of the title "nurse" by persons enrolled in a board-approved refresher course for the purpose of obtaining an active South Carolina license.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

		A person who practices or offers to practice nursing in this State in violation of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than fifty thousand dollars.	
South Dakota	SD CODIFIED LAWS § 36-9-36	A person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in this state may use the title registered nurse and the abbreviation "R.N."	Effective
Tennessee	TN Code § 63-7-107	Any person who holds a license to practice professional nursing under this chapter shall, during the effective period of such license, be entitled to use the title "nurse," "registered nurse," or the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume such titles or use such abbreviation or any other words, letters or signs to indicate that the person using the same is a professional or registered nurse.	Effective
Texas	TX Occupations Code § 301.251	AA Unless the person holds a license under this chapter, a person may not use, in connection with the person 's name: (1) the title "Registered Nurse," "Professional Nurse," "Licensed Vocational Nurse," "Vocational Nurse," "Licensed Practical Nurse," "Practical Nurse," or "Graduate Nurse"; (2) the abbreviation "R.N.," "L.V.N.," "V.N.," "L.P.N.," or "P.N."	Effective
Utah	UT CODE § 58-31b-501	"Unlawful conduct" includes: (1) using the following titles, names or initials, if the user is not properly licensed or certified under this chapter: (a) nurse; (b) licensed practical nurse, practical nurse, or L.P.N.; (c) medication aide certified, or M.A.C.; (d) registered nurse or R.N.; (e) registered nurse practitioner, N.P., or R.N.P.; (f) registered nurse specialist, N.S., or R.N.S.; (g) registered psychiatric mental health nurse specialist; (h) advanced practice registered nurse; (i) nurse anesthetist, certified nurse anesthetist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or C.R.N.A.; or (j) other generally recognized names or titles used in the profession of nursing;	Effective
Vermont	VT Statute Title 26 § 1584	It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person, including any corporation, association, or individual, to use in connection with a name any words, letters, signs, or figures which imply that a person is a registered or practical nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse when not authorized under this chapter.	Effective

Virginia	VA Code § 54.1-3016	Any person who holds a license or a multistate licensure privilege to practice professional nursing in Virginia shall have the right to use the title "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the person using the same is a registered nurse.	Effective
Washington	Revised Code WA § 18.79.030	It is unlawful for a person to practice or to offer to practice as a registered nurse in this state unless that person has been licensed under this chapter. A person who holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in this state may use the titles "registered nurse" and "nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person may assume those titles or use the abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person using them is a registered nurse.	Effective
West Virginia	WV Code § 30-7-10	Any person licensed pursuant to this article may use the title "registered nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." or the term "nurse". Except as otherwise provided in article seven-a of this chapter, no other person may assume a title or use abbreviations or any other words, letters, figures, signs, or devices to indicate that the person using the same is a registered professional nurse.	Effective
Wisconsin	WI Statute § 441.06	The holder of the license is a "registered nurse", may append "R.N." to his or her name and is authorized to practice professional nursing.	Effective
Wyoming	WY Statute § 33-21-134	Any person who holds a license to practice as a registered professional nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title "Registered Nurse" and the abbreviation "R.N." No other person shall assume this title or use this abbreviation or any words, letters, signs or devices to indicate that the person using same is a registered professional nurse.	Effective

"Doctor, Dr." Protection

As of April, 2013

State	Statute/ Regulation	Relevant Text	Status
Alabama	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alaska	AK Statute Sec. § 08.02.010	<p>a person engaged in any manner in the healing arts who diagnoses, treats, tests, or counsels other persons in relation to human health or disease and uses the letters "M.D." or the title "doctor" or "physician" or another title that tends to show that the person is willing or qualified to diagnose, treat, test, or counsel another person, shall clarify the letters or title by adding the appropriate specialist designation, if any, such as "dermatologist", "radiologist", "audiologist", "naturopath", or the like.</p> <p>(b) A person subject to (a) of this section who fails to comply with the requirements of (a) of this section shall be given notice of noncompliance by that person's appropriate licensing board or, if the person is not regulated by a board, by the department. If, after a reasonable time, with opportunity for a hearing, the person's noncompliance continues, the board or department, as appropriate, may suspend or revoke the person's license or registration, or administer other disciplinary action which in its determination is appropriate.</p>	Effective

<p>Arizona</p>	<p>AZ Revised Statute § 32-1455</p>	<p>B. The following acts if committed by a person not licensed under this chapter or exempt from licensure pursuant to section 32-1421 are class 2 misdemeanors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The use of the designation "M.D." in a way that would lead the public to believe that a person was licensed to practice medicine in this state.2. The use of the designation "doctor of medicine", "physician", "surgeon", "physician and surgeon" or any combination thereof unless such designation additionally contains the description of another branch of the healing arts.3. The use of the designation "doctor" by a member of another branch of healing arts unless there is set forth with each such designation the other branch of the healing arts concerned.4. The use of any other words, initials, symbols or combination thereof which would lead the public to believe such person is licensed to practice medicine in this state.	<p>N/A</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Arkansas</p>	<p>AR Statute § 17-80-110</p>	<p>Using "Doctor" as title in documentation. In any written document or electronically transmitted document in connection with the provision of a health care service, no person shall use the title "Doctor", unless that title is authorized under § 17-1-101 et seq., in which case that person shall use the title in accordance with the statutes and regulations governing the particular health care profession or unless that person has been granted a doctoral degree in any healing arts profession and is licensed in that profession under § 17-1-101 et seq.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
	<p>AR Statute § 17-80-113</p>	<p>Authorized use of "Doctor" as title. This act shall not be construed to authorize any person to use the title "Doctor", unless that title is authorized under § 17-1-101 et seq., in which case that person shall use the title in accordance with the statutes and regulations governing the particular health care profession or unless that person has been granted a doctoral degree in any healing arts profession and is licensed in that profession under § 17-1-101 et seq.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

<p>California</p>	<p>CA Business and Professions Code § 2054</p>	<p>(a) Any person who uses in any sign, business card, or letterhead, or, in an advertisement, the words "doctor" or "physician," the letters or prefix "Dr.," the initials "M.D.," or any other terms or letters indicating or implying that he or she is a physician and surgeon, physician, surgeon, or practitioner under the terms of this or any other law, or that he or she is entitled to practice hereunder, or who represents or holds himself or herself out as a physician and surgeon, physician, surgeon, or practitioner under the terms of this or any other law, without having at the time of so doing a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended certificate as a physician and surgeon under this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor.</p> <p>(b) A holder of a valid, unrevoked, and unsuspended certificate to practice podiatric medicine may use the phrases "doctor of podiatric medicine," "doctor of podiatry," and "podiatric doctor," or the initials "D.P.M.," and shall not be in violation of subdivision (a).</p> <p>(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), any of the following persons may use the words "doctor" or "physician," the letters or prefix "Dr.," or the initials "M.D.":</p> <p>(1) A graduate of a medical school approved or recognized by the board while enrolled in a postgraduate training program approved by the board.</p> <p>(2) A graduate of a medical school who does not have a certificate as a physician and surgeon under this chapter if he or she meets all of the following requirements:</p> <p>(A) If issued a license to practice medicine in another jurisdiction, has not had that license revoked or suspended by any jurisdiction.</p> <p>(B) Does not otherwise hold himself or herself out as a physician and surgeon entitled to practice medicine in this state except to the extent authorized by this chapter.</p> <p>(C) Does not engage in any of the acts prohibited by Section 2060.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Colorado</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Connecticut	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delaware	DE Code , 24 § 1701	Using the designation Doctor, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, physician, surgeon, physician and surgeon, Dr., M.D., or D.O., or a similar designation, or any combination thereof, in the conduct of an occupation or profession pertaining to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease or condition, unless the designation additionally contains the description of another branch of the healing arts for which one holds a valid license in the State.	Effective
District of Columbia	N/A	N/A	N/A
Florida	SB 612	(1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be taken: (of) Introducing oneself with the title of “doctor” by a person licensed under chapter 464 while rendering health care services without orally disclosing that the licensee is a nurse practitioner, doctor of nursing practice, or the corresponding appropriate title that corresponds with the person’s license.	Approved by Health Policy Committee 3/7/13. Now referred to Judiciary Committee

<p style="text-align: center;">Georgia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GA Code § 43-34-22</p>	<p>If any person shall hold himself or herself out to the public as being engaged in the diagnosis or treatment of disease or injuries of human beings, or shall suggest, recommend, or prescribe any form of treatment for the palliation, relief, or cure of any physical or mental ailment of any person, with the intention of receiving therefor, either directly or indirectly, any fee, gift, or compensation whatsoever, or shall maintain an office for the reception, examination, or treatment of diseased or injured human beings, or shall attach the title "M.D.," "Oph.," "D.," "Dop.," "Surgeon," "Doctor," "D.O.," "Doctor of Osteopathy," "Osteopathic Physician," or "Physician," either alone or in connection with other words, or any other word or abbreviation to his or her name indicative that he or she is engaged in the treatment of diseased, defective, or injured human beings, and shall not in any of these cases then possess a valid license to practice medicine under the laws of this state, he or she shall be deemed to be practicing medicine without complying with this article and shall be deemed in violation of this article.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hawaii</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HI Revised Statutes § 453-2</p>	<p>Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall practice medicine or surgery in the State, either gratuitously or for pay, or offer to practice medicine or surgery in the State, or advertise or announce one's self, either publicly or privately, as prepared or qualified to practice medicine or surgery in the State, or append the letters "Dr.," "M.D.," or "D.O." to one's name with the intent to imply that the person is a practitioner of medicine or surgery, without having a valid unrevoked license or a limited and temporary license obtained from the Hawaii medical board.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Idaho</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ID CODE § 54-1804</p>	<p>Except as provided in subsections (1)(a), (1)(b), and (1)(c) above, it is unlawful for any person to assume or use the title or designation "medical doctor," "medical physician," "osteopathic doctor," "osteopathic physician," "M.D." or "D.O." or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device to indicate to the public that such person is licensed to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter unless such person is so licensed, and upon conviction thereof, such person shall be imprisoned not to exceed one (1) year, or shall be fined not more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000), or shall be punished by both fine and imprisonment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Illinois</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">225 IL Statutes § 60/49</p>	<p>If any person attaches the title Doctor, Physician, Surgeon, M.D., D.O. or D.C. or any other word or abbreviation to his or her name indicating that he or she is engaged in the treatment of human ailments or conditions as a business he or she is guilty of a Class 4 felony. Any person who has been previously convicted and who subsequently violates this Section is guilty of a Class 3 felony.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">225 IL Statutes § 145/15</p>	<p>A health care professional providing health care services in this State must only use the licensure titles or initials authorized by his or her licensing Act, examination designations required for licensure under his or her licensing Act, or the titles authorized by the professional licensing Act for students in training.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">□</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Indiana</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IN Code § 25-22.5-1-1.1</p>	<p>Attaching the designation "doctor of medicine", "M.D.", "doctor of osteopathy", "D.O.", "osteopathic medical physician", "physician", "surgeon", or "physician and surgeon", either alone or in connection with other words, or any other words or abbreviations to a name, indicating or inducing others to believe that the person is engaged in the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>

<p>Iowa</p>	<p>IA Code § 147.74</p>	<p>Any person who falsely claims by the use of any professional title or abbreviation, either in writing, cards, signs, circulars, advertisements, the internet, or other written or electronic means, to be a practitioner of a profession other than the one under which the person holds a license or who fails to use the designations provided in this section shall be guilty of a simple misdemeanor.</p> <p>10. A psychologist who possesses a doctoral degree may use the prefix “Dr.” or “Doctor” but shall add after the person’s name the word “psychologist”.</p> <p>24. No other practitioner licensed to practice a profession under any of the provisions of this subtitle shall be entitled to use the prefix “Dr.” or “Doctor” unless the licensed practitioner possesses an earned doctoral degree. Such a practitioner shall reference the degree held after the person’s name</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Kansas</p>	<p>KS Statute § 65-2867</p>	<p>It shall not be considered a violation of the Kansas healing arts act if an unlicensed person appends to such person's name the word "doctor" or the letters "M.D.," "D.O." or "D.C.," if such person has earned such professional degree from an accredited healing arts school or college, and if the use of such word or initials is not misleading the public, patients or other health care providers that such person (1) is engaged in the practice of the healing arts within this state; or (2) is licensed to practice the healing arts in this state.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Kentucky</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Louisiana</p>	<p>LA Revised Statute § 1743.1</p>	<p>A. No healthcare provider, while providing direct patient care, shall present himself, whether orally or in writing, to a patient using the title of "Doctor" or the abbreviation of "Dr." as a prefix to his name without using a suffix to denote either the type of professional license held by the healthcare provider or the degree to which he is entitled by reason of his diploma of graduation from a school or other entity, professional or otherwise.</p> <p>B. Any healthcare provider who uses the title of "Doctor" or the abbreviation of "Dr." in any manner inconsistent with the provisions of this Section may be sanctioned in accordance with rules promulgated by the licensing board for that provider's profession or occupation.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Maine</p>	<p>ME Statute 32 § 3270</p>	<p>An individual licensed under chapter 36 may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to that individual's name, as provided in section 2581, or a chiropractor licensed by this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to that individual's name when accompanied by the word "Chiropractor," or a dentist duly licensed by this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to that individual's name or a naturopathic doctor licensed by this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to that individual's name when accompanied by the word "Naturopathy" or the words "Naturopathic Medicine" or an optometrist duly licensed under the laws of this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to that individual's name when accompanied by the word "Optometrist" or a podiatrist licensed under the laws of this State may prefix the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." to that individual's name when accompanied by the word "Podiatrist" or "Chiropodist."</p> <p>Whoever, not being duly licensed by the board, practices medicine or surgery or a branch of medicine or surgery, or purports to practice medicine or surgery or a branch of medicine or surgery in a way cited in this section, or who uses the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." or the letters "M.D." in connection with that individual's name, contrary to this section, commits a Class E crime. The prefixing of the title "Doctor" or the letters "Dr." or the appending of the letters "M.D." by an individual to that individual's name or the use of the title of doctor or physician in any way by an individual not licensed as described is prima facie evidence that that individual is purporting to practice medicine or surgery contrary to this section, except that nothing contained in this section prevents an individual who has received the doctor's degree from a reputable college or university, other than the degree of "Doctor of Medicine" from prefixing the letters "Dr." to that individual's name, if that individual is not engaged, and does not engage, in the practice of medicine or surgery or the treatment of a disease or human ailment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Effective</p>
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Maryland	MD Statute Health Occupations § 14-602	Except as otherwise provided in this article, a person may not use the words or terms “Dr.,” “doctor,” “physician,” “D.O.,” or “M.D.” with the intent to represent that the person practices medicine, unless the person is: (1) Licensed to practice medicine under this title; (2) A physician licensed by and residing in another jurisdiction, while engaging in consultation with a physician licensed in this State; (3) A physician employed by the federal government while performing duties incident to that employment; (4) A physician who resides in and is licensed to practice medicine by any state adjoining this State and whose practice extends into this State; or (5) An individual in a postgraduate medical program that is approved by the Board.	Effective
Massachusetts	N/A	N/A	N/A
Michigan	MI Compiled Laws § 333.17011	The following words, titles, or letters or a combination thereof, with or without qualifying words or phrases, are restricted in use only to those individuals authorized under this part to use the terms and in a way prescribed in this part: "doctor of medicine", "m.d.", "physician's assistant", and "p.a.". Notwithstanding section 16261, an individual who was specially trained at an institution of higher education in this state to assist a physician in the field of orthopedics and, upon completion of training, received a 2-year associate of science degree as an orthopedic physician's assistant before January 1, 1977 may use the title "orthopedic physician's assistant" whether or not the individual is licensed under this part.	Effective
Minnesota	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mississippi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Missouri	N/A	N/A	N/A
Montana	N/A	N/A	N/A
Montana	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nevada	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hampshire	N/A	N/A	N/A

New Hampshire	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Mexico	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Jersey	N/A	N/A	N/A
New York	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Carolina	NC General Statute § 90-1.1	Using the designation "Doctor," "Doctor of Medicine," "Doctor of Osteopathy," "Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine," "Physician," "Surgeon," "Physician and Surgeon," "Dr.," "M.D.," "D.O.," or any combination thereof in the conduct of any occupation or profession pertaining to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease or condition, unless the designation additionally contains the description of or reference to another branch of the healing arts for which the individual holds a valid license in this State or the use of the designation "Doctor" or "Physician" is otherwise specifically permitted by law.	Effective
North Dakota	ND Century Code § 43-17-01	"Practice of medicine" includes the practice of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. The following persons must be regarded as practicing medicine: One who attaches the title doctor, or any other similar word or words or abbreviation to the person's name, indicating that the person is engaged in the treatment or diagnosis of the diseases or injuries of human beings must be held to be engaged in the practice of medicine.	Effective
Ohio	OH Revised Code § 4731.34	A person shall be regarded as practicing medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine and surgery, within the meaning of this chapter, who Uses the words or letters, "Dr." or "Doctor".	Effective
Oklahoma	OK Statute § 59-725.2	The following classes of persons may use the word "Doctor", or an abbreviation thereof, and shall have the right to use, whether or not in conjunction with the word "Doctor", or any abbreviation thereof, the following designation the letters "Ph.D.", "Ed.D." any other person using the term doctor, or any abbreviation thereof, shall designate the authority under which the title is used or the college or honorary degree that gives rise to use of the title.	Effective
Oregon	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pennsylvania	N/A	N/A	N/A

Rhode Island	RI General Laws §5-37-12	Any person who is not lawfully authorized to practice medicine within this state, and registered according to law, who practices medicine or surgery or attempts to practice medicine or surgery, or any of the branches of medicine or surgery, after having received or with the intent of receiving, either directly or indirectly, any bonus, gift or compensation, or who opens an office with intent to practice medicine, or holds himself or herself out to the public as a practitioner of medicine, whether by appending to his or her name the title of doctor or any abbreviation, or M.D., or any other title or designation implying a practitioner of medicine, or in any other way, shall be imprisoned not more than three (3) years, or fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment; and in no case when any provision of this chapter has been violated shall the person violating these provisions be entitled to receive compensation for services rendered.	Effective
South Carolina	SC Code §40-47-20	"Practice of Medicine" means using the designation Doctor, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Physician, Surgeon, Physician and Surgeon, Dr., M.D., D.O., or any combination of these in the conduct of any occupation or profession pertaining to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease or condition unless such a designation additionally contains the description of another branch of the healing arts for which one holds a valid license in this State that is applicable to the clinical setting.	Effective
South Dakota	SD CODIFIED LAWS § 36-4-9	For the purpose of this chapter, "practice of medicine or osteopathy" includes, but not by way of limitation, to append or prefix the letters M.D., or D.O. or the title of Doctor or Dr. or Specialist or Osteopath or any other sign or appellation in a medical sense to one's name or to profess publicly to be a physician or surgeon or to recommend, prescribe or direct for the use of any person any drug, medicine, apparatus, or other agency for the cure, relief or palliation of any ailment or disease of the mind or body or the cure or relief of any wound, fracture or bodily injury or deformity.	Effective
Tennessee	N/A	N/A	N/A

<p>Texas</p>	<p>TX Occupations Code § 104.004</p>	<p>In using the title "doctor" as a trade or professional asset or on any manner of professional identification, including a sign, pamphlet, stationery, or letterhead, or as a part of a signature, a person other than a person described by Section 104.003 shall designate the authority under which the title is used or the college or honorary degree that gives rise to the use of the title.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Utah</p>	<p>UT CODE § 58-67-102</p>	<p>To use, in the conduct of any occupation or profession pertaining to the diagnosis or treatment of human diseases or conditions in any printed material, stationery, letterhead, envelopes, signs, or advertisements, the designation "doctor," "doctor of medicine," "physician," "surgeon," "physician and surgeon," "Dr.," "M.D.," or any combination of these designations in any manner which might cause a reasonable person to believe the individual using the designation is a licensed physician and surgeon, and if the party using the designation is not a licensed physician and surgeon, the designation must additionally contain the description of the branch of the healing arts for which the person has a license, provided that an individual who has received an earned degree of doctor of medicine degree but is not a licensed physician and surgeon in Utah may use the designation "M.D." if it is followed by "Not Licensed" or "Not Licensed in Utah" in the same size and style of lettering.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Vermont</p>	<p>VT Statute Title 26 § 1311</p>	<p>Practice of medicine means using the designation "Doctor," "Doctor of Medicine," "Physician," "Dr.," "M.D.," or any combination thereof in the conduct of any occupation or profession pertaining to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease or condition unless the designation additionally contains the description of another branch of the healing arts for which one holds a valid license in Vermont.</p>	<p>Effective</p>

<p>Virginia</p>	<p>VA Code § 54.1-2903</p>	<p>Any person shall be regarded as practicing the healing arts who actually engages in such practice as defined in this chapter, or who opens an office for such purpose, or who advertises or announces to the public in any manner a readiness to practice or who uses in connection with his name the words or letters "Doctor," "Dr.," "M.D.," "D.O.," "D.P.M.," "D.C.," "Healer," or any other title, word, letter or designation intending to designate or imply that he is a practitioner of the healing arts or that he is able to heal, cure or relieve those suffering from any injury, deformity or disease. No person regulated under this chapter shall use the title "Doctor" or the abbreviation "Dr." in writing or in advertising in connection with his practice unless he simultaneously uses a clarifying title, initials, abbreviation or designation or language that identifies the type of practice for which he is licensed.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Washington</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Washington</p>	<p>WV Code § 30-32-17</p>	<p>The board may impose any of the following disciplinary actions in those instances in which an applicant for a license or a licensee has been guilty of conduct which has endangered, or is likely to endanger the health, welfare or safety of the public by misrepresenting the applicant, licensee or holder by using the word "doctor" or any similar word, abbreviation or symbol if the use is not accurate or if the degree was not obtained from a regionally accredited institution.</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>Wisconsin</p>	<p>WI Statute § 448.03</p>	<p>Except as provided in s. 257.03, no person may use or assume the title "doctor of medicine" or append to the person's name the letters "M.D." unless one of the following applies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The person possesses the degree of doctor of medicine. 2. The person is licensed as a physician under this subchapter because the person satisfied the degree requirement of s. 448.05 (2) by possessing a medical degree that was conferred by a medical school recognized and listed as such by the World Health Organization of the United Nations. 	<p>Effective</p>

Wyoming	WY Statute § 33-26-102	Practicing medicine means any person who in any manner Attaches the title of M.D., D.O., physician, surgeon, osteopathic physician or osteopathic surgeon, doctor, or any other words, letters or abbreviations or any combination thereof when used in the conduct of any occupation or profession pertaining to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of human disease or condition unless the designation additionally contains the description of another branch of the healing arts for which one holds a valid license in this state.	Effective
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