

**VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING**  
**CLIENT AGE PARAMETERS FOR ADULT NURSE PRACTITIONERS**  
**POSITION STATEMENT**

**Question:** What are the minimum client age parameters for Adult Nurse Practitioners?

**Definitions:**

Adult: 18 years and older

Adolescence: 12 to <20 yrs of age (varies with certification agency)

**Background:**

Age parameters for Adult Nurse Practitioner Board Certification exams:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center, a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association. The outline of the exam indicates that test content spans Adolescence (13-17 years) and Adult (18+ years)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners exam outline indicates test content for Adolescence (12-20 years) and Adult (21+ years)

**Position Statement Which Reflects the Nurse's Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Board of Nursing has determined that Adult Nurse Practitioners may care for clients no younger than Adolescence - which may be defined as 12 to 20 years of age.

Practitioners should consult the test outline for their specific certification exam to determine the exact parameters for their practice.

**References/Citations:**

Adult Nurse Practitioner Board Certification Exam Outline - American Nurses Credentialing Center, American Nurses Association - 2010

Adult Nurse Practitioner Board Certification Exam Outline – American Academy of Nurse Practitioners - 2010

South Carolina Board of Nursing - Position Statement - The Age Parameters for Nurse Practitioner Practice – March 2002

Date of Initial acceptance: November 2004

Revised: November 2010

Revised (Date)

Revised (Date)

Reviewed (Date)

**This opinion is subject to change as changes in nursing practice occur.**