Overview of requirements for Licensed Practical Nurses

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| Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) is generally considered a higher level of licensure than Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and a lower level of licensure than Registered Nurse (RN). All but one state have only one pathway to licensure. The path to licensure generally involves some combination of secondary education, training program, and exam requirements. The outlier, California, offers alternate pathways involving experience. Key policy variance captured by this dataset includes the combination of requirements necessary for licensure, the stringency of requirements for training programs, whether 10 or 12 years of education are necessary, and how much continuing education is necessary to maintain licensure. LPNs in almost all states are regulated by nursing boards, though in Illinois they are regulated by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. A common source of policy variance not captured by this dataset is the existence of licensure by endorsement pathways, see comments and notes for some information on endorsements when captured. |