



May 2023 Bulletin

Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



**DON'T FORGET YOUR RENEWAL
FOR 2023**

FAQs

*LVTs= 10 hrs * DVMS=20 hrs *APTs= 5 hrs *ACs=15 hrs

- CE can be all online for this renewal only
- CE must be earned between 1/1/2022-6/30/2023
- The number of **hours** double for your next renewal (6/30/25)
- The waiver of in-person **hours** ends after this renewal.
- 1/2 of **hours** must be in-person starting July 1.
- If you do not enter correct/enough CE online, your renewal is incomplete and you are subject to late fees.
- If you pay online with a credit card, there **is** a 2.8% service charge. It will show separately on your statement.

Report: ACVR Issues Ultrasound Consensus Statement

The American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR) recently released a consensus statement on the use of abdominal ultrasound on **dog** and cats. The ACVR intends to provide guidance to veterinarians for obtaining and documenting abdominal ultrasound exams. Although it is not required by the Board, all Nevada veterinarians should consider these **guidelines** in their practice..

The recommendations pertain to full abdominal ultrasound in dogs and cats. While they recognize that abbreviated ultrasound examinations are sometimes limited to a specific organ system, the ACVR recommends a full comprehensive ultrasound in most cases.

- Abdominal ultrasound equipment should include transducers with a frequency range 5-18 MHz (minimum)
- The haircoat must be clipped.
- Sedation should be considered but is not required.
- Fasting of 8 to 12 hours is recommended but not required.
- A written report detailing and interpreting the findings is an essential part of any ultrasound examination and is to be included into the patient's medical record.
- Images should be in DICOM format and should be archived in retrievable format for a duration determined by the governing professional agency (in Nevada the requirement is four years).
- Ultrasound images must be labeled with patient ID, hospital name, exam date, and the organ/site imaged, and measurements where required.
- If images are not acquired/interpreted by a board-certified veterinary radiologist, the person taking the images should document their findings in a report (approved and signed by the veterinarian holding the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship) or submitted with the images for teleradiology review.
- A basic report should include description of organ size, shape, and echogenicity, and if normal or abnormal.
- The report should conclude with a final assessment and ranked differential diagnoses.

For questions please email the ACVR at acvr@pamedsoc.org
Full Consensus Statement [Text](#)

Tips and Tricks: Medical Records Compliance

[NAC 638.0475](#) and [638.610](#) **layout** what must be included in a medical record in Nevada. While the entire code should be **referred** when developing medical record protocols, it can be helpful to highlight specific elements of the medical record requirements and discuss where the Board sees common pitfalls.

[NAC 638.0475](#) states “medical records must be maintained for at least four years and that a copy must be provided to an owner or a Board representative within 48 hours after their request”. The intent of this section is to ensure adequate patient care and communication across the spectrum of care for a patient. There are several common violations the Board sees regarding this regulation.



Situation 1: Hospital B contacts Hospital A and requests medical records for a client that has come to them for a second opinion, but Dr. A is awaiting lab results from the first visit.

Possible Solution: Even if the records are not complete, send what you can within the 48 hours (noting they are incomplete) and follow-up when the records are completed.

Many hospitals have policies that require a veterinarian to approve records before they are shared (either with the client or another hospital). This policy is fine as long as it does not inhibit the records from being sent within the 48 hour timeframe. If the veterinarian is *not* able to approve the record within 48 hours, the records must still be sent to the client or the requesting hospital. Sending a record that notes that it is not complete, is more in line with the intent of this regulation than withholding a record beyond 48 hours to complete/approve it.

Complaints have **be** filed when an owner read something insulting in the medical record. Remember: anything you write in the medical record could be read by the owner if they request it. If your client says something insulting and you want to document this part of the conversation, don't write “client became abusive” or “client was a jerk”, simply write the events as they happened without editorializing. (*continued on page 3*)

(continued from page 2) Details required in a record, like patient signalment and dates of treatments, are also under [NAC 638.0475](#). Details of diagnosis and treatment are needed so another veterinary professional can adequately follow the case. Requirements of what should be in the record are best summed up here: “sufficient information to justify the diagnosis or determination of the medical status of the animal and to warrant any treatment recommended.”

Often Missed Info in Medical Records:

1. **Informed Consent:** It is ideal to document consent to treatment with a signed estimate. **At** minimum a record should show a notation that an estimate was provided. Include notation of any diagnostic/treatment that the client declined. *NAC638.0475 2(e)*
2. **Drug Concentration:** Too often only the volume of injections is recorded. Because concentrations of drug are variable, the dose cannot be determined without concentration and volume. One simple solution is to list the concentration on the anesthesia/treatment form next to each injectable or list the dose in mg/kg if the hospital uses standard doses. *NAC638.0475 2(k)(1)*
3. **Surgery Time:** Surgery end times are often omitted. *NAC638.0475 2(k)(3)*
4. **Post-Surgical Vitals:** It is important to include a patient’s vitals as they describe the patient’s condition prior to release and are often omitted. *NAC638.0475 2(k)(4)(I)*
5. **Auto-Populated Records:** Computer records can not use information automatically generated by a computer. *NAC638.0475 5(d)*
6. **Addendum:** A common mistake occurs when a user makes changes to a record to clarify or correct a mistake and does not properly identify the change. Each software handles addendums to records differently. Some systems track changes made to a record without any input from the veterinarian, but some require the user to designate the date of the change. Check with your software support to make sure how addendums can be added so that it is clear users are not falsifying records after the fact. *NAC 638.0475 6*
7. **Health Prior to Vaccination:** Hydration status, body temperature, pulse and respiratory rates of any animal vaccinated at a veterinary facility or vaccination clinic must be recorded. Furthermore, “any respiratory, intestinal or other organ disease that may affect the efficacy of the vaccine.” must be listed as well. *NAC638.610*

It certainly feels like everyone in the veterinary profession is overworked. The last thing you need is more work, but proper documentation is imperative to patient care and potentially to any license defense should a client file a complaint or civil action. There are several tools to increase the efficiency of writing records. Some may already be available in your software. Consult with your software company to discuss potential tools you may unlock in you program.

Here are some dictation programs that may be helpful:

Talkatoo.com
Talkingvet.com
Dragonveterinary.com

Many programs, like Microsoft Word, have a dictation function at no additional cost.



CE CORNER

Please refer to NAC 638.042 for a complete list of the types of courses approved the Board to ensure that CE you are taking is approved.

Searchable CE Sites:

- Free AVMA seminars online: [\(Click here\)](#)
- VetFolio is offering free CE here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8r97x4>
- VetMedTeam List of Free CE: <https://www.vetmedteam.com/classes-free.aspx>
- NAVTA’s List of Free CE: navta.net/page/continuing_education
- Search for Board approved CE any time at <https://www.aavsb.org/RACE>
- WVC Viticus Group Academy Courses: <https://www.viticusgroup.org/wvc-academy>
- Veterinary Practice News: Webinar and In-Person CE Courses <https://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/events/>



Online/OnDemand Webinars

- AVMA CE: Workplace Wellbeing Seminar [\(Click here\)](#)
- Free CE with Clinician’s Brief: <https://www.cliniciansbrief.com/continuing-education>
- DVM360 On-Demand and Live Seminars: [\(Click here\)](#)