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Update

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Volume 9 Number 2



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ASBN Update

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The mission of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing is to protect the public and act as their advocate by effectively regulating the practice of nursing.

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president's message



While visiting my mother-in-law over Christmas, I ran into a little trouble. It seemed simple enough - I was going to take a shower. After removing my glasses and entering the shower, the confusion began. There were approximately 40 bottles

surrounding the shower, most looking nearly identical, but none of them said anything recognizable to a half-blind male. I was looking for something like "shampoo", "soap" or even "body-wash". Instead, I was finding things like "moisturizing glaze", "volumizer", "exfoliator", and "lightening rinse". Not being able to read the fine print without my glasses, I paused to think of the consequences of making a bad decision. How would I look as a blonde? Or would it matter if I was exfoliated (and would it hurt)? Fortunately, my wife came in at that point and pointed me to the items I needed. I came out of the shower with what little hair I had going into it, and it was the same color. (Although I did smell kind of like a pumpkin pie.)

Now imagine the confusion of a patient in a facility today. My first job was as a housekeeper in a hospital. I can assure you that my uniform looked absolutely nothing like a nurse's uniform. (...if only they had let me wear one of those cool white hats.) But in 2005, everyone wears scrubs. From the high-school dropout delivering trays, to the neuro surgeon, everyone is dressed the same. With the increasing nursing shortage, this is only getting worse. Nurses are being supplemented with an X-tech here, a Y-tech there, here a tech, there a tech, everywhere a tech, tech! At the Board of Nursing, we have no

authority over these facilities or their techs, but we do have authority over nurses. In the Rules and Regulations governing the practice of nursing in Arkansas, it clearly states,

"Any person licensed to practice nursing shall wear an insignia to identify himself by his name and appropriate legal title or abbreviation during times when such person is providing health care to the public for compensation. The insignia shall be prominently displayed and clearly legible such that the person receiving care may readily identify the type of nursing personnel providing such care." (ASBN Rules and Regulations, Chapter One, Section III-B)

The rules don't have an exception if the employer doesn't provide a nametag. They don't have an exception if you work in a doctor's office. They don't even have an exception in the event that "nobody else wears one". If you work in an area where you determine that it's best that your last name not be on the name tag, it's acceptable to have only your first name and your title, but you must have at least that much. If your employer provides you with a clip-on photo name tag and you hate the picture, there's a simple fix. Instead of turning it to where the blank back is shown, ask to have another photo taken. Or put your name and title on a piece of tape with a Sharpie. Heck, write your name and title on a piece of tape with a crayon and stick it on - just use something!

Again, we can't control the legions of techs out there, but if all nurses wear the required identification, it would be assumed that anyone without a tag was not a nurse. Now, if we could just get the companies who manufacture stuff for washing hair to label it "Shampoo"...

Dan West, RN

FROM THE EDITOR

The letter on page 7 was received after the Update's issue on Discipline. I called Meredith for permission to print her letter in hopes of benefiting others. As we were talking I learned that she celebrated nine years of sobriety on January 26, 2005. Go girl!

The next issue of the ASBN Update will focus on the nursing shortage. We welcome any articles, letters, etc. for future publication consideration.

WIN DINNER FOR TWO!!

Find the "Thinkaboutitnursing" logo in this issue of the Update. Cut it out and mail it to: Thinkaboutitnursing, P.O. Box 17427, Little Rock, AR 72222

Entries received by March 31st will go into the drawing to win dinner for two courtesy of Publishing Concepts, Inc. Good luck and good hunting!



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executive director's message



Can you believe it is already 2005? It seems like just yesterday that we were having the Y2K concerns and agencies were spending lots of money making sure their computers didn't crash at the beginning of the new millennium. Since the sky did not fall, we've moved on to other issues and concerns as the years keep rollin' by.

This year the board will be implementing legislation passed by the 85th General Assembly of the Arkansas legislature. A law was passed removing

the mandate that the Board of Nursing send out paper renewal applications and paper licenses. This was done to pave the way for the future when it is proposed that paper licenses will no longer be issued around the United States. Due to issues of fraud and identity theft discussions are taking place around the nation about eliminating the paper license and requiring primary source online or telephone verification of licensure.

Another bill was passed allowing the Board to increase the fee charged for certification of professional CRNA corporations. ACA §4-29-210 established a fee for professional corporation certification and renewal of certifications in the amount of \$25 and \$10 respectively in 1963. That fee has not been increased in over 40 years. Unheard of! The fees have been increased to "not more than \$100" and will be implemented on July 1st after the legislation goes into effect. Other acts affecting nursing regulation, which were enacted by the 85th General Assembly, will be discussed in the next issue of the ASBN Update.

The current issue of our magazine focuses on criminal background checks. As you will see in this issue, criminal background checks on all new licensees was instituted as a result of legislation enacted in 1999 to ensure patient safety and protection. For many years prior to this legislation the board asked a question regarding previous criminal convictions on all initial applications. However the self reported positive response rate was very low, meaning either that not many licensees were convicted or admitted to having been convicted of a crime before mandatory background checks were implemented. Since the 1999 state criminal records check and the 2001 federal criminal background check was implemented, we have seen a dramatic increase in the numbers of licensees who have a past criminal history.

We often get the question asking why a background check performed previously for employment cannot be accepted by the Board of Nursing for licensure purposes. The short answer is that when a criminal records check is done through the FBI, they are able to report out only those violations the law stipulates as bars to licensure. So if the legal basis for the employers background check is different from the board of nursing's (and it always is), then the records results would not necessarily reveal all of the violations the Board is required to evaluate as listed in ACA §17-87-312.

Hopefully, in this issue, you will obtain a better understanding of some of the processes the board of nursing uses to protect the public. If you have questions, please contact us anytime.

Faith A. Fields

Faith A. Fields, MSN, RN

Arkansas State Board of Nursing
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1st Annual Golf Scramble

Monday June 13, 2005

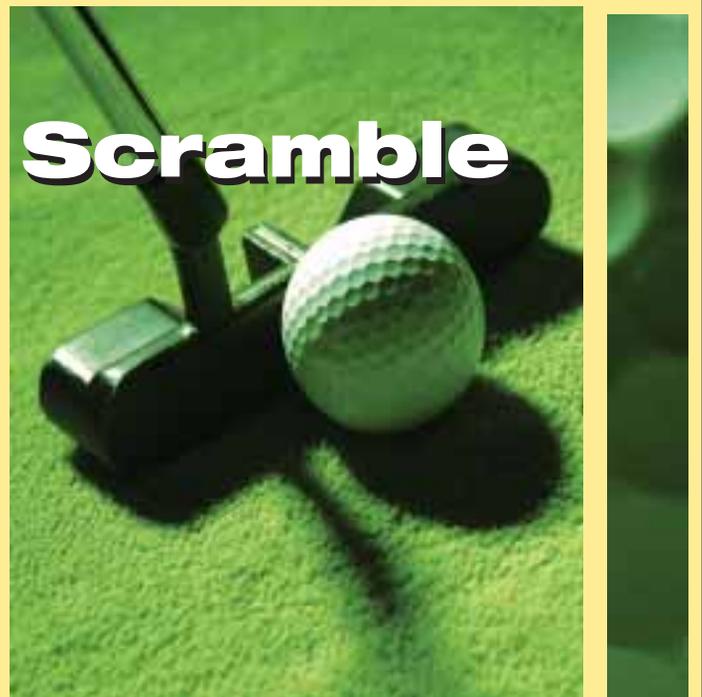
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January 17, 2005

Fiath A. Fields, MSN, RN
Arkansas State Board of Nursing
1124 S. University, Suite 800
Little Rock, AR 72204

Dear Ms. Fields,

I read the ASBN update this weekend, and I was very pleased to see the Board address the topic of discipline. I was especially pleased and surprised to read the article by Carol Bowers, RN. Carol was the RN that checked me into Talbott Marsh Recovery Campus nine years ago and she is probably the one person most responsible for my sobriety today.

When I checked in, my attention span was limited. I was in withdrawal and full of regret, shame, remorse and fear. She was able to restore a sense of hope in me that I had lost. She shared just enough of her story with me that day to revive my spirit. I had given up on ever practicing nursing again, in fact I had given up on just about everything. The disease of addiction is a very powerful enemy. It is nearly impossible to identify in ourselves, but easy to see in others. That's the power of denial. My denial fell apart when she admitted she had once been in my place.

Carol was living proof that a person could become hopelessly addicted to Demerol, seek and obtain treatment, put one day after another and practice nursing again happily and effectively. She also had credibility and respect from co-workers. I guess that day I began to believe that addiction was a disease and Carol was living proof that recovery and healing can occur. That was just the first step, and the work wasn't easy. Carol and the rest of the TMRC team were rough taskmasters. They made us work hard.

Returning to Arkansas and having my license suspended was the next most important part of my recovery. It proved to me that if I wanted to work as a nurse again, I had to be willing to do whatever was asked of me. In AA we talk about people not being motivated until they've hit "bottom". That was a very convincing bottom for me. Today, I'm actually glad the "flag" is on my license. I don't ever want to work in an environment where that would be an issue. I need to remember what I was like, what happened and what it's like now. The minor discomfort I feel when I have to explain my history keeps me honest. If the flag was gone, I could act as though it never happened. Eventually I might start to believe it never happened. I understand how I failed the trust put into me when I was initially licensed. I never want to betray that trust again.

Again, thanks to you and the Board for the difficult work you do. The subject of impairment is far too wide spread to remain a quiet secret. There are no doubt hundreds of professionals living in their own private hell with no idea how to stop. If they can have hope restored the way Carol Bowers restored mine, maybe they can begin their own recovery.

Sincerely,
Meredith C. Atkinson, RN

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FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. According to the requirements for continuing education, it must be practice-focused. What does that mean?

A. Practice-focused means that the content of the continuing education must be related to the field in which you practice. For example, a nurse working in the pediatric area can only count continuing education related to the pediatric population.

(Sue Tedford)

Q. When will I be issued a temporary permit?

A. You will be issued a temporary permit after the NCLEX registration for the examination has been processed and Criminal Background Checks are cleared.

Q. When should I call the ASBN office to check on my temporary permit?

A. Please allow us time to process your request. It takes ten business days from the time ALL requirements are met to be eligible to test. If, after ten business days you have not received your temporary permit feel free to call.

(Naomi Bryant)

Q. What are the requirements to obtain prescriptive authority as an APN in Arkansas?

A. As of December 2004 the 1,000 hours of practice in a clinical setting for initial prescriptive authority is no longer required and the 1,000 hours for endorsement has been reduced to 500 hours of prescribing prior to the year of application. You will also need Three (3) graduate credit hours pharmacology course, included as part of an advanced practice nursing education program, within five (5) years immediately prior to the date of application to the Board, and submit a current collaborative practice agreement with a physician who is licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, and who has a practice comparable in scope, specialty or expertise to that of the advanced practice nurse. You may also refer to the ASBN Rules and Regulations Chapter Four Section VIII for further information.

(Bernice Colston)

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Name: Lorenda Cox Place of birth: Nashville, AR
Family members: Charles (husband), Nakita, Brittney, Genia (daughters), Jayce, Blaine (grandsons), Jake, Jarrod (son-in-laws)

Town/County of residence: Murfreesboro, Pike County

Education: High school, 2 yrs college

Length and area of nursing practice/experience: 27 years in nursing; 13 yrs at Pike County Hospital, 8 yrs in home health and six years with Dr. Phillip White

When appointed to board: October 1997

Thoughts on being a board member: Unforgettable experience, great honor to represent nurses, work with some wonderful people

Thoughts on role of Board: Difficult to remember we are to protect the public instead of the nurse. Does not only involve discipline but also regulates nursing practice. It has been very interesting to see how the legislature works and to be involved in changes over the last eight years.

Pets: Mukie (dog) and Louie (cat) Favorite color: Blue

Favorite book: Jerry Baker's Gardening Secrets; Cookbooks

Leisure activities: reading, working in the garden/flowers, playing with grandchildren, walking, cooking—I love to make jellies and do canning

If I received a million dollars I would: Give it away

Favorite food/Last meal: Chicken Stir-fry I absolutely will not eat: Poke salad

If I've learned one thing in life it's: Don't say, "I'll never do that" and don't judge others

My best time of day is: Early morning—I walk everyday at 5:30 with a friend and Mukie.

My family thinks I am: too serious and lecture too much; over protective, but caring

People would be surprised to know: I love anything made by hand

Three adjectives that others would use to describe me: caring, patient, kind

One word to sum me up: Happy

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Nursing is pleased to announce that Governor Mike Huckabee has appointed the following Board Members:

- Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, RN-appointed to serve a four-year term on the Board. Ms. McHenry is a Nurse Administrator in Acute Care, Long Term Care and Mental Health Settings.
- Stephanie R. Rockett, RN-appointed to serve a four-year term on the Board. Ms. Rockett is an RN at Arkansas Children's Hospital, Heart Center and Nurse Coordinator since 2000.

The Board of Nursing expresses their appreciation to Karen Buchanan, RN; Shirlene Harris, RN; and James Carr, Representative of the Older Population; for their many hours of dedicated service to the Board. Board members represent all geographical areas of the state, as well as many areas of nursing of which includes acute care, home health, education, long term care and residential care. They meet twice a month with the exception of July and December to manage issues related to discipline, practice, education and licensure.

board business



BOARD MEETING DATES

March 9th Disciplinary April 13 & 14 Disciplinary May 12 Business
March 10th Disciplinary May 11 Disciplinary June 8 & 9 Disciplinary
The public is invited to attend ASBN Meetings. Groups of more than five should contact LouAnn Walker at 501.686.2704

board meeting highlights

At the January 2005 Board meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- Granted continued full approval to the Black River Technical College Practical Nurse Program until the year 2009
- Granted continued full approval to the UAM College of Technology – McGehee Practical Nurse program until the year 2009
- Granted the Jefferson School of Nursing Diploma Program Continued Full Approval for one year. During this year all deviations will be corrected and recommendations completed. The program will be reviewed by the ASBN at the January 2006 meeting.

important information

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Licensure/Renewals

LOST OR STOLEN LICENSE

A listing of all lost or stolen licenses can be found at www.arsbn.org. All reissued licenses will have duplicate stamped on them. Employers are urged to inspect the original license from a job applicant and verify the nurse's identity with a photo ID.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Congratulations to Margie Brauer. Margie was selected employee of the Year for 2004. Margie is the Licensing Secretary and has been with the Board thirteen years. Margie is responsible for endorsement of nurses into Arkansas, verifying information on Arkansas nurses applying for licensure in other states and coordinating the microfilming for the agency. Serving as the special events organizer she also plans employee functions and staff recognition activities.

Fostering a Culture of Professionalism through National Nursing Certification



By: Donna Elrod, RN, MSN, AOCN, BC, Clinical Nurse Specialist; UAMS; Pam LaBorde, RN, MSN, Clinical Nurse Specialist; UAMS; and Lucy Wisemon, RN, MNsc, CCRN, CCNS, Clinical Nurse Specialist, UAMS

We would all agree that patients seeking healthcare today are more acutely ill and have increased complex care needs and co-morbidities. This environment of increased acuity and complexity coupled with high patient/family expectations challenges any nurse's ability to stay current and competent in his/her clinical knowledge, skills, and clinical decision making abilities. These current aspects of today's clinical practice have brought forth the support at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) for nurses to obtain their national nursing certification.

What is Professional Nursing Certification?

Often the term "certification" has been used loosely to refer to the idea of training a nurse to do a particular procedure or to suggest the attainment of knowledge about a specific subject. This definition does not describe what UAMS embraces as professional certification.

Professional certification is based on the existence of specific standards of practice and the verification that the professional nurse is clinically competent to adhere to those standards. It designates the achievement of a higher level of the basic skills, abilities, and knowledge in a particular specialty and is a credential earned only by those professional nurses who meet rigorous practice, testing, and continuing education requirements in their specialty area of practice. Certification is not just passing a test; rather it represents a continuum of learning and a commitment to professionalism.

What are the Benefits of Professional Certification?

Nurses are not considered incompetent in what they do if they do not have a national nursing certification. National nursing certification does not render a nurse an instant expert either. Several UAMS certified Nurses describe their individual professional benefits in terms of promoting continual learning, increased recognition for achievement, added peer support, and a way to grow professionally. Here are some of their comments:

"Certification requires that you do several continuing education hours which motivates you to seek them out. It 'forces' you to do more which is beneficial to your nursing practice."

"The review classes and all of the studying we did to prepare for the exam were beneficial to all of us."

"Certification makes you feel like you have accomplished something! The recognition ceremony held for us by the hospital was very nice. We were glad that they recognized us for doing what we did."

"Other nurses often ask about the process and the exam which lets us encourage others to take the exam and become certified."

It really keeps you involved in your profession. We have a 'network' with ourselves trying to find new contact hours."

"The other opportunities and options that you have to recertify offer you a chance to publish your own articles and numerous other things."

“Certification is not just passing a test; rather it represents a continuum of learning and a commitment to professionalism.”



Professional certification provides a mechanism to objectively validate nurses' specialty knowledge, builds self-confidence in their own ability as professional nurses, and demonstrates to other nurse colleagues their dedication and accountability to the profession of nursing.

UAMS Department of Nursing's Commitment to National Certification

The UAMS Department of Nursing is committed to supporting nurses in obtaining national certification. Support includes granting official leave to attend free review classes and paying fees for specified certification exams. Nurses receive a salary incentive for certification. In addition, UAMS certified nurses receive personal and public recognition for their achievements

through internal publication, especially during National Nurse's Week and public recognition in the local newspaper. UAMS also offers its nurses several avenues to obtain continuing education which is an important piece in obtaining and maintaining certification. Currently, UAMS supports several different national certifications. The Department of Nursing is investigating avenues of support for other clinical specialties and will be seeking the advice of staff about how to best support their attainment of professional certification.

Benefits of Becoming a Certified Professional Nurse:

Achievement of a professional nursing certification has its benefits. Becoming a certified professional nurse benefits not only the individual nurse, but patients and

families as well. Certified nurses are experienced, remain informed about changes in their specialty practice, and are dedicated to their profession. This dedication brings to patients a commitment by the nurse to provide quality patient care which produces positive outcomes. UAMS' commitment to supporting professional nursing certification ensures that nursing practices are consistent with national standards. For more information on professional nursing certifications, visit the American Nurse's Association's website <http://nursingworld.org/ancc/>.



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CBC ARTICLE

by *Mary Stinson*
Nursing Education Secretary

Every person seeking licensure for the first time in Arkansas, or anyone seeking a new category of license (i.e.: LPN to RN; RN to an advanced practice category) must apply for criminal background checks (CBC), state and federal. The results of these checks must be received by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing before a license is issued. Applications for these background checks should be sent to the Arkansas State Police, along with processing fees of \$20.00 for the state and \$24.00 for the federal. This should be done at least three months prior to the time the licensure application is to be filed with the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) as it sometimes takes this long for the process to be completed.

When completing the state CBC form every question must be answered or the forms will be returned to you. One of the most common problems for the ASBN in matching CBC results with a person filing application for licensure is an applicant using more than one name. The name on the Criminal Background Check Form must match the names on the licensure application form and the NCLEX examination application form. The Arkansas State Police match this information in the Arkansas Driver's License data base. Therefore the name on the driver's license should match the name used on the applications. If your name has changed since your driver's

license was issued, the driver's license should be changed so that the names on the driver's license and both licensure applications are the same. If you are going to use your driver's license as picture identification to be admitted to the NCLEX testing center this is absolutely essential. You will not be admitted if the names do not match which means you will lose your \$200.00 non-refundable fee.

The FBI Fingerprint card must be obtained from the ASBN or have the ASBN ORI Number written or stamped in the designated box. When filling in the boxes on the FBI Fingerprint card make sure your complete mailing address, including zip code, is in the proper box. If the fingerprints are incomplete or unreadable, the card will be returned to you and it will be necessary to submit another set of fingerprints. This could delay the process by as much as two or three months. It is important to note that an incomplete address will also cause a delay. Read the FBI and Arkansas Criminal Background Checks Instruction sheet carefully before you mail the forms to make sure all of the required information has been included. Do not bend or fold the fingerprint card and mail in an appropriate size envelope. The instruction sheet and forms also state: "DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CONTACT THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE OR THE FBI

ABOUT THE STATUS OF YOUR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS." This is a request from these law enforcement agencies to eliminate unnecessary time consuming phone calls to staff members.

If you are completing a nursing program and are making application to take the NCLEX examination your program director should have the forms available to begin the process prior to graduation. The state background check form can be downloaded from the ASBN webpage and the FBI fingerprint card can be obtained by sending a mail or email request (be sure to include your correct mailing address) or by phoning the ASBN office. You can also request the cards on line at www.arsbn.org and follow the link to forms/ criminal background check/ "Would you like to request a federal background check form?" Answer: "Yes": Fill in the requested information and submit request.

When seeking an Arkansas license by endorsement from another state, the criminal background process is the same with one exception. If you hold a current unencumbered nursing license in another state a temporary permit can be issued based on the Arkansas CBC results. This will make it possible to work on the permit for up to six months while waiting for the Federal Background check.

ASBN Workshops for 2005

Nursing 2005: What Every Nurse Should Know

The 2005 workshops will be presented around the state by the staff at the State Board of Nursing. The workshop is designed for all nurses and nursing students. It will cover topics such as the impaired nurse, legislation, leadership, unprofessional conduct and NCLEX. Each workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will award 6.3 contact hours. The cost is \$45.00. The registration form and additional information is available on the ASBN webpage www.arsbn.org. We look forward to seeing you at one of these workshops.

DATE	CITY	LOCATION
March 15	Little Rock	St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center Center for Health Education #2 St. Vincent Circle
April 21	Monticello	Gipson University Center 517 University Drive (Green Room)
June 16	Batesville	UACCB 2005 White Drive (Independence Hall Auditorium)
September 29	Magnolia	SAU (Grand Hall) 100 East University St.
October 6	Jonesboro	St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center Auditorium 505 East Washington St.
November 15	Fort Smith	Sparks Regional Medical Center 1311 South I St. (Shuffield Education Ctr)
December 7	Springdale	Jones Center (chapel) 922 E. Emma Ave.

NON-CRIMINAL JUSTICE BACKGROUND CHECKS IN ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

by Lieutenant Cora L. Gentry
Arkansas State Police Supervisor of
the Identification Bureau

Many entities in Arkansas are mandated by Arkansas law to perform criminal history background checks on its prospective licensees and applicants for employment. (see footnote) Criminal history background checks for these purposes are called "non-criminal justice background checks". If the background check is done for a law enforcement purpose then it is called a "criminal justice background check". These two labels are important because the reports disclose varying amounts of a criminal history. For example, if a person was arrested for forgery and the case was later dismissed, an employer or licensing board would not be able to see that arrest on a non-criminal justice record check. However, a criminal justice record check (such as is requested by police officers as they perform their duties) would be able to see that arrest.

Both criminal justice and non-criminal justice record checks would show conviction information.

With the use of the new on-line background check system offered by Arkansas State Police, in some cases employers and professional licensing boards will be able to see pending felony arrests (where the arrest has occurred but the person has not been to court). The on-line system also discloses whether the person is a registered sex offender.

Many of the laws that mandate background checks, list certain offenses for which you cannot have been convicted of and hold that license or employment. The offenses vary widely among the Code sections. A conviction that may keep a person from working in a long term care facility may not keep the same person from working in a day care facility. A person

would need to specifically review the Code section of the chosen area to see whether a certain conviction is disqualifying.

A person may ask "We can just do an FBI background check and that would get all the state convictions, right?" No, that is not correct. Each state criminal history database has more information about that state's arrests than the FBI. This is due to the higher standards of quality that is set by the FBI for submission of fingerprint cards. The FBI requires ten good fingerprints (all fingers). The state fingerprint database will accept a criminal arrest card with just one good fingerprint. When the FBI rejects a fingerprint card, that arrest is not entered into their database. The state accepts the fingerprint card to document that arrest, because in many cases the subject will be released from jail and additional fingerprints cannot be obtained and if the state did not accept the fingerprint card there would be no record of that arrest.

The FBI has continually rejected poor quality fingerprints over the last 20 years creating a distinct imbalance between the state criminal arrests records and an FBI background check. In those cases the criminal arrest will be in the state database but not the FBI database.

For more information about background checks on-line through the Arkansas State Police go to www.asp.state.ar.us and click on "criminal background checks now available".

**Footnote*

Entity	Year Est.	Arkansas Code section
Child Care	1995	ACA §20-78-602
Child Welfare	1997	ACA §9-28-409
Counselors	1997	ACA §17-27-313
Education Certified	1997	ACA §6-17-410
Non-Certified	1997	ACA §6-17-414
Long-Term Care	1997	ACA §20-33-203
Psychologists	1997	ACA §17-97-312
EMT's	1999	ACA §20-13-1106)
Social Workers	1999	ACA §17-103-307)
Nurses	1999	ACA §17-87-312)
Designated State employees	2000	ACA §21-15-103
Adoptions	2003	ACA §9-9-212
Auctioneers	2003	ACA §17-17-312
Pharmacy	2003	ACA §17-92-317



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BY FRED KNIGHT
General Counsel

Criminal Conviction *Question*

Most nurses are aware that the Nurse Practice Act requires them to renew their license every two (2) years. In order to assist nurses in this process, the Board sends each nurse an application for license renewal approximately six (6) weeks prior to the expiration of their current license. The application is sent to the last known address that the applicant has provided the Board. For that reason, it is imperative that nurses keep the Board apprised of their current address. It is your responsibility to know when your license renews whether or not you receive this notice.

When completing the renewal application each nurse must answer a criminal conviction question. Specifically, the question asks "since your last renewal have you been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, pled guilty or nolo contendere to any charge in any state or jurisdiction?" If the applicant answers the question in the affirmative, then they must submit a written explanation with court

papers attached to the Board. Failure to submit these documents with your renewal application may result in a delay in the processing of your application. If your nursing license lapses while waiting for the renewal process to be completed you will not be able to work as a nurse until your license is renewed.

If you fail to answer the criminal conviction question correctly, then you may be guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing. Unfortunately, this may result in an entirely new set of problems for you to address with the Board.

If you have a conviction then the best way to answer the criminal conviction question is straight forward and honestly. As you are aware, honesty is the bedrock of nursing. Being honest on your renewal application and providing the Board the necessary documentation will facilitate processing your renewal application in a timely manner.



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Criminal Background Checks

In 2000, the Board of Nursing began conducting criminal background checks on all nurses applying for an Arkansas license. This includes new graduates and nurses coming from another state or applying for an advanced practice license. Criminal background checks are not routinely conducted on currently licensed nurses, however the law permits the Board to request a background check at anytime. These background checks are usually due to an investigation of an incident, which was reported to the Board.

According to the law, ACA §17-87-312, an individual is ineligible to hold a license if they pled guilty, nolo contendere or were found guilty of certain felony convictions such as battery, murder, manslaughter, theft of property, terroristic threatening, arson, burglary, and violation of the uniform controlled substance act. This law applies to licensed nurses as well as those individuals seeking licensure.

The Board may grant a waiver depending on factors such as age at which the crime was committed, circumstances surrounding the crime, length of time since the crime, subsequent work history and references. Even if a conviction is not an automatic bar to licensure, there is no guarantee that a license will be issued. All convictions are investigated and a decision is made on an individual basis.

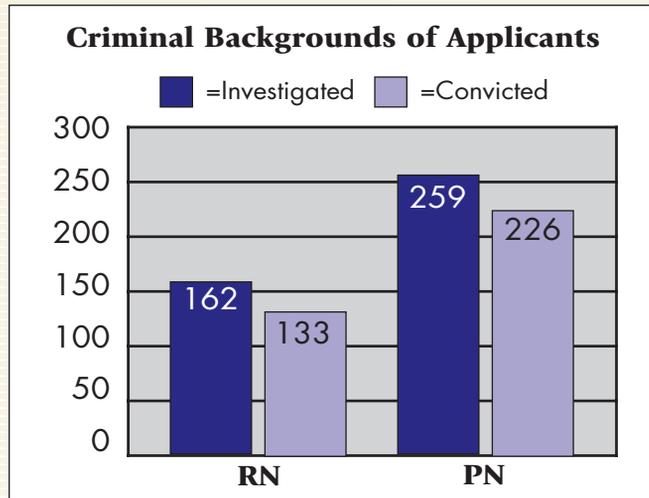
The criminal background reports received from the Arkansas State Police and the FBI usually list all arrests for an individual – independent of whether there was a conviction or the charges were dropped. All applicants with anything listed on the criminal background report, no matter how long ago it happened, are required to obtain court documents pertaining to each incident. Often obtaining these documents is a

slow and frustrating process for the applicant and slows the licensure process down. If the appropriate documents are included with the application, the investigation moves much quicker.

an investigation I often hear comments such as; "That was supposed to be off of my record.", "That was expunged.", "Nothing has ever showed before.", or "I forgot about..." It is essential that all

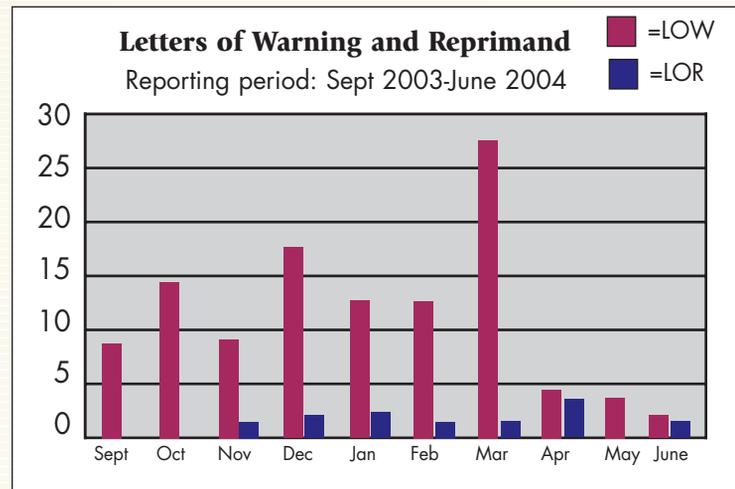
questions be answered truthfully. Falsification of any document is a serious infraction and can result in discipline which may include revocation or denial of a license. It would be very unfortunate for someone to complete a nursing program and be denied licensure. Thirty-seven (10%) applicants (FY 2003-2004) falsified their application by answering "no" to the question related to a

past conviction. At a minimum, these individuals are issued a Letter of Reprimand, which is disciplinary action on their nursing license. This Letter of Reprimand will show up on their licensure history for the rest of their career. The Board also issues Letters of Warning to individuals with past convictions who were truthful on their application. A Letter of Warning is not considered



The Board of Nursing processes over 3,000 background checks each year. In the fiscal year 2003-2004, 2,699 RNs and LPNs were issued a license with 452 investigations initiated due to a positive criminal background. This resulted in 133 RNs and 226 LPNs with at least one past conviction.

All ASBN applications have a question concerning past convictions. The question on the initial licensure application asks, "Have you ever...?" and on the renewal form it asks "Since your last renewal...?" It does not ask, "What will show up on your background check?" Applicants will sometimes answer "no" to the question even if they have a conviction. During

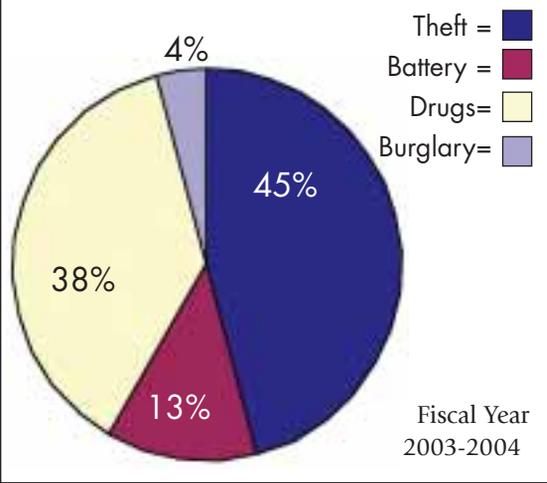


by Sue Tedford
Director of Nursing
Education



discipline but informs the individual that if they continue to engage in any type of criminal behavior, they may be subject to disciplinary action. Remember, you are a nurse twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week – not just when you are on the clock. The next table shows the number of Letters of Warning and Reprimand which were issued due to a conviction history. The majority of the investigations are related to misdemeanor convictions such as shoplifting and violation of the hot check law.

ACA 17-87-312 Convictions



During the fiscal year 2003-2004, twenty individuals with a conviction listed in ACA §17-87-312 applied for licensure in Arkansas. The next table depicts that theft convictions (i.e. theft of property, theft by receiving etc.) occurred most frequently with violation of the uniform controlled substance act following closely behind. Criminal background checks are here to stay. Attempting to deceive the Board about past convictions is one way of not ever being able to practice nursing in Arkansas. Your mother always told you that honesty is the best policy and she was definitely right.

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Educational & Ethical Response to

CE Audit Report

*Bendi Bowers is currently employed as a Staff Education Instructor at University of Arkansas for Medical Science and is owner/operator of RN Advantage, Medical-Legal Consulting Firm
Sandy Bennett has been employed with UAMS Staff Education since 1998 and a member of their Ethics committee since 2000.*

Nursing has long strived to be considered a profession, and many often associate a profession with a respectable occupation that employs knowledgeable individuals. In regards to the Continuing Education Audit Report published in the ASBN Update, Volume 8 Number 5, a moderate number of nurses audited did not have the required continuing education at the time of renewal. Although continuing education for licensure renewal only became effective July 1, 2003 for Arkansas nurses, continuing education requirements are not a new concept and are required for many professions.

Updates in technology, new procedures, and research are all examples of why continuing education is a necessity to keep knowledge and skills current. Currently, Arkansas only requires 15 contact hours, some states require as many as 30 contact hours with designated topic requirements. So why would a nurse obtain continuing education? Other than the simple fact it is required by law, what about self-improvement, empowerment to reach potential and achieve goals, or a sense of commitment to your profession?

According to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics, "The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety to maintain competence, and to continue personal and professional growth." Nurses are required under the code to have knowledge relevant to the current scope and standards of nursing practice, changing issues, concerns, controversies, and ethics. With

increased offerings from employers and internet access, a number of options are available for all nurses to reach the contact hour obligation and no excuse exists for a nurse not to receive 15 hours of continuing education over a two year period. Nursing and the care we provide are ever-changing. In order to give the best possible patient care, a commitment to self-improvement and life long learning must be made. *Bendi Bowers, RN-BSN, CLNC

"Ethics is central to the way we care, and to the way we envision ourselves as professionals..."

(NursingEthics.ca; Chris McDonald)

Even though it's been a few years since nursing school I still remember one of the first things learned was "If you didn't document it, you didn't do it". This statement also meant that if you did document it and didn't do it, well, that was considered false documentation. False documentation in any situation could jeopardize your license not to mention the life of your patient. My co-worker and co-author pointed out that 15 practice focused contact hours is not an unreasonable amount within the two year period. Healthcare professionals (the emphasis there being on the word professionals) have absolutely no reason not to have the contact hours required for licensure. The desire to stay current with education alone is enough to secure those hours. From my

perspective, the issue of greater concern wasn't the number of nurses that did not have the hours, but the number of nurses that signed their name to a statement that guaranteed the hours but did not, upon audit, honestly have them. It is understood that with the new requirements there may have been some question as to what met the requirement and what did not; which may have proven something of an "oh, I didn't realize" moment.

Those are not the nurses that should give us cause to be concerned. The concern is in regard to the professional ethics represented by the others that signed the statement: "I affirm that the contents of this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I have met the continuing education requirements for license renewal"; fully aware that the education requirements had not been met. Signing RN behind our name means that we are held to a higher standard. There is much more represented by the statement we sign than meeting the education requirements...Ethics. The honor associated with being a nurse is so strongly tied to ethics that as a group we need to band together to protect the issues regarding them. *Sandra S. Bennett, RN-BSN, CBE
References:

American Nurses Association. (1985).

Code for Nurses with Interpretive Statements. Washington, D.C.

American Nurses Association. Tranbarger, P. (2000). Professionalism in Nursing: The Struggle to Attain Professional Status.

legislative update

SB21 by Senator Steve Faris and Representative Sandra Prater will enable the Board of Nursing to modify the notification for renewal of licenses to support online license renewal. This bill will also repeal an unused requirement for oversight of the board's renewal procedures by the Legislative Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committees.

HB1031 by Senator Jodie Mahony and others will allow donated prescription medications from nursing homes to be dispensed to patients at charitable clinics.

SB147 by Senator Jerry Bookout will assist the Board of Nursing by increasing the amount that can be charged for certi-

fication of CRNA corporations from the amount set in 1963 of \$25.00 to "not more than \$100.00".

We expect other bills to be filed that will affect nursing practice. One is to establish an exception to the nurse practice act to allow consumer directed care in the patient's homes. Another is to allow RNs to pronounce death in a nursing home. We expect a bill to be filed to increase the educational requirements for certified nursing assistants and to allow the board of nursing to certify medication aides.

When the session is over, we will detail legislation that impacts nursing regulation in Arkansas.

MEET THE STAFF



Name: Ed Sweeten
 Place of birth: Modesto, CA
 Family members: Ashley Sweeten 14
 Town/County of residence: Benton, Saline
 Education: Microsoft Certified Professional, Graduate Northwestern Technical College, A+ Certified
 Favorite color: Blue
 Favorite hobby: Auto Racing
 Leisure activities: Fishing, Cooking
 If I received a million dollars I would: Travel
 Favorite food/Last meal: Shrimp Fra Diavolo
 I absolutely will not eat: Liver
 If I've learned one thing in life it's: don't fret the small stuff, Choose your battles wisely
 I knew I was grown up when: Still waiting
 My best time of day is: Evening
 My family thinks I am: Too Independent
 People would be surprised to know: I am a single dad
 Three adjectives that others would use to describe me: Intelligent, Patient, Creative
 One word to sum me up: Paradox

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Addiction	International Nurses Society on Addictions	1-919-821-1292	www.intnsa.org	CARN, CARN-AP	RN
Administration	National Associate Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care	1-800-222-0539	www.nadona.org	CDONA/LTC	RN
Anesthesia	Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists	1-847-692-7050 x3092	www.aana.com	CRNA, CPAN, CAPA	RN
	American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing	1-800-622-7262	www.cpancapan.org		
Critical Care	American Association of Critical Care			CCRN, CCNS	RN
Case Management	Nurses Certification Corporation	1-800-899-2226	www.certcorp.org	CCM	RN/ LPN
	Commission for Case Management Certification	1-847-818-0292	www.ccmcertification.org		
Diabetes	American Association of Diabetes Educators	1-800-338-3633	www.aadenet.org	BC-ADM	RN
	Certifying Body National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators	1-847-228-9795	www.ncbde.org	CDE	RN
	Arkansas State Board of Nursing Diabetes Self-Management Educator	1-501-686-2700	www.arsbn.org	None	RN
Disability	Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association	1-800-888-6733	www.ddna.org	CDDN, DDC	RN/LPN
Emergency	Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing	1-800-900-9659 x2630	www.ena.org/BCEN	CEN, CFRN	RN
Forensic	International Association of Forensic Nurses	1-856-256-2425	www.forensicnurse.org	SANE-A	
Gastroenterology	Certifying Board of Gastroenterology Nurses & Associates	1-800-245-7462	www.cbigna.org	CGRN, CGN	RN/LPN
Gerontology	National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses	1-919-779-0046	www.nflpn.org	GC	LPN
Healthcare Quality	Healthcare Quality Certification Board	1-800-346-4722	www.cphq.org	CPHQ	RN/LPN
HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board	1-800-260-6780	www.hanchb.org/certification/	ACRN	RN
Holistic	Certifying Body American Holistic Nurses' Certification Corporation	1-877-284-0998	www.ahna.org/edu/certification.html	HNC	RN
Hospice & Palliative	National Board for Certification of Hospice & Palliative Nurses	1-412-787-9301	www.hpna.org/	CHPN	RN
Infection Control	Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology	1-913-599-4174	www.cbic.org	CIC	RN
Infusion	Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation	1-800-434-4622	www.ins1.org/certify2.htm	CRNI	RN
	National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses	1-919-779-0046	www.nflpn.org	IVC	LPN
Legal Nurse Consulting	American Legal Nurse Consultant	1-877-402-2562	www.aalnc.org	LNCC	RN
Long Term Care	National Association for Practical Nurse Education & Service	1-301-588-2491	www.napnes.org	CLTC	LPN
Managed Care	American Board of Managed Care Nursing	1-804-527-1905	www.abmcn.org	CMCN	RN/LPN
Nephrology	Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission	1-888-884-6622	www.nncc-exam.org	CDN	RN
	Certifying Body Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing & Technology	1-913-541-9077	www.goamp.com/bonent	CNN CHN, CPDN	RN(BSN) RN/LPN
Neuroscience	American Board of Neuroscience Nursing	1-847-375-4733	www.aann.org	CNRN	RN
Nurse Practitioner	American Academy of Nurse Practitioners	1-512-442-5202	www.aanp.org	NP-C	RN
Occupational Health	American Board for Occupational Health Nurses	1-888-842-2646	www.abohn.org	COHN, COHN-S, COHN/CM	RN(BSN)
Oncology Nursing	Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation	1-877-769-6622	www.oncc.org	OCN, AOCN, CPON	RN
Ophthalmic	National Certifying Board for Ophthalmic Registered Nurses		www.asorn.org	CRNO	RN
Orthopedic	Orthopedic Nurses Certification Board	1-888-561-6622		ONC	RN
Pain Management	American Academy of Pain Management	1-888-342-7766	www.aspmn.org	FAAPM	RN
Pediatric	National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners & Nurses	1-888-641-2767	www.pnpcert.org	CPN	RN
	Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation	1-877-769-6622	www.oncc.org	CPNP	RN
				CPON	RN
Pharmacology	National Association for Practical Nurse Education & Service	1-301-588-2491	www.napnes.org	NCP	LPN
Radiology	Radiologic Nursing Certification Board	1-866-486-2762	www.arna.net	CRN	RN
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board	1-800-229-7530	www.rehabnurse.org/index5.htm	CRRN, CRRN-A	RN*
Surgery	Certification Board of Perioperative Nursing	1-888-257-2667	www.certboard.org	CNOR, CRNFA	RN**
	Association of Surgical Technologist	1-303-694-9130	www.ast.org	CST, CFA	
Transplant Coordinators	American Board of Transplant Coordinators	1-913-599-0198	www.abtc.net	CCTC, CPTC	RN/LPN
Urology	Certification Board for Urologic Nurses & Associates	1-856-256-2351	www.sunu.org	CURN, CUNP, CUCNS, CUA	(see A*)
Wound/Ostomy	Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Certification Board	1-888-496-2622	www.wocncb.org	CCCN, COCN, CWCN, CWOCN	RN
	American Academy of Wound Management	1-202-521-0368	www.aawm.org	CWS	
Women's Health	American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council	1-202-728-9860	www.acnm.org	CNM	RN
	National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecological & Neonatal Nursing Specialties	1-312-951-0207	www.nccnet.org	RNC	RN

*- (master doctorate) **- RN, RN(BSN), RN/LPN A*-RN, RN-NP, RN-CNS, LPN

Certification as an Option for Continuing Education

Continuing education for license renewal was mandated in the 2001 Arkansas legislative session (ACA §17-87-207). The regulations were put into effect beginning July 1, 2003.

The continuing education requirements can be met by one of three options:

- Obtaining the required number of practice-focused contact hours from a nationally recognized or state continuing education approval body recognized by the ASBN. OR
- Maintenance of certification or re-certification by a national certifying body recognized by the ASBN. OR
- Completed academic course in the nursing or related field.

The majority of nurses are meeting the continuing education requirements by obtaining the appropriate number of contact hours. However, national certification is another excellent means of meeting these requirements. National certification has been available to nurses for over thirty years. The American Nurses Credentialing Center is the largest credentialing organization for nurses and currently has more than 145,000 certified nurses in over 50 specialties. There are many other certifying organizations that are recognized and accepted by ASBN for the continued competency requirements. The list of ASBN accepted certifications can be found on page 20 and on the ASBN webpage.

One of the main issues in today's healthcare climate is high quality healthcare. There is a move toward hospitals becoming "magnet hospitals" and nurses becoming certified in their specialty. These measures have been shown to promote quality patient care and improve patient outcomes.

The Board of Nursing issues a license, which shows that, it is legally permissible for the individual to practice nursing. However, certification in a specialty indicates compliance with professional standards for practice and signifies a level of expertise and professional competence.

Frequently the questions, "What is certification?" and "Why should I obtain national certification in my specialty area?" are asked. Certification is the process of validating an individual's qualifications and knowledge of practice in a specific clinical specialty. This is accomplished by passing a psychometrically sound national exam that is based on job analysis studies. The qualification requirements for certification vary among certifying organizations and may include licensure status (RN, LPN, etc.), highest degree held in nursing, and practice hours in a specialty.

Certification brings about a personal satisfaction through increased confidence and personal growth. It validates the knowledge gained through professional education and experience. These nurses often report greater career advancement opportunities and monetary differentials. Nurses who are certified show they have taken that extra step toward a commitment to excellence and promotion of high quality patient care.



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Ignorance is No Excuse

In 2002, my parents, Bill and Jo Bissell, became full time RVers. My father enjoys a complete retirement, while my mother supplements their income by working as a registered nurse a few months out of the year. As they travel the United States and relay their stories of adventure, the old saying of "Ignorance is no excuse" comes to mind. My parents must be accountable to know and understand the different laws of each state as they travel. This was reiterated while they were staying in Southern California last year. Joshua Tree National Park posts signs restricting the feeding of the wild life. Most everyone understands the importance of following this restriction. A coyote that has

"It is your responsibility to be familiar with both of these, as you are held accountable for practicing under these mandates."

lost the fear of humans would be a scary thing! But what about hummingbirds? Well, according to the park ranger who paid my parents a visit, hummingbird feeders are a violation of this rule. My parents' plead ignorance while removing their feeder. The park ranger informed them that hummingbirds are considered animals. Though the personal ramifications of feeding hummingbirds are probably not quite as severe as coyotes there are other issues. Hence the rule.

Just as above, nurses are also held

accountable to know, understand and practice according to their "laws" aka "Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) Rules and Regulations" and "Nurse Practice Act". The excuse of not being aware of a requirement or "no one told me that" won't work. It is your responsibility to be familiar with both of these, as you are held accountable for practicing under these mandates.

Let's look at Prescriptive Authority (PA) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)



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This material was prepared by Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Arkansas, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), a federal agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect their policies.

Alisa R. Caple, MNsc.,RN
Director of Advanced Nursing Practice

numbers. Every nurse in advance practice who applies for and meets the requirements will be issued a PA number from the Board. There appears to be inconsistent information regarding the PA number's documentation on prescriptions. For that reason the following is a direct quote from the ASBN Rules and Regulations. Chapter Four, Section VIII-E 1 states "All written prescriptions issued by the APN shall contain the name of the client, and the APN's name, telephone number, signature with the initials "APN", prescribing identification number issued by the Board, and should include information contained in Subsection D.5 a-e of this section".

Any prescription of a controlled

substance must not only contain the same information as required above, but also have the DEA number written on the prescription (ASBN Rules and Regulations, Chapter Four, Section VIII-E 2).

A question was asked regarding the practice of printing the PA number on prescription pads. There is no stipulation regarding this practice from the Board and is left up to the individual. Since your DEA number is only required for controlled substances, it is probably a good idea not to have that printed in case of theft. As we learned in the last issue drug diversion and misuse do, unfortunately occur.

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IV Therapy in Long Term Care

– Education to Meet New Standards for Nursing

In 2004, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing developed new standards which will help to meet an increasing demand for the use of intravenous (IV) therapy administration in nursing homes. IV therapy is emerging as an alternative delivery method for fluids and medications in the elderly, especially for those over the age of 85. Traditionally, in long term care settings, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) assume most of the responsibility for administering medications, providing treatments and overseeing direct patient care.

However, most practical nurses in long term care have not been trained in IV therapy. In the past, IV therapy was not included in the curriculum of practical nursing education, and RNs were unable to delegate this task to LPNs. The Arkansas State Board of Nursing's new standards now allow qualified LPNs to use this route of administration.

IV Therapy in Gerontological Nursing Practice

In general, age-related changes affect

the structure and function of all body systems to some extent. For example, average renal blood flow falls nearly 1% per year after age 30, resulting in a 30-40% decrease in older adults. Impaired renal function means that too much fluid can be retained or excreted. Fluid overload may be more pronounced, making IV therapy potentially dangerous in the elderly.

Age-related skin conditions are also an area of concern for nurses providing infusion care. The loss of skin thickness, elasticity, vascularity and strength can delay the healing process and increase the rate of skin tears. In the elderly, veins are more likely to roll within the loose subcutaneous tissue, collapse and become irritated. The insertion of a cannula may cause bruising. Skin tears can occur from the mere removal of tape used to secure the insertion site, increasing the potential for infection.

Cognitive impairment, common in nursing home residents is also a problem. Residents may not understand what

an IV cannula is or the importance of its function. Moving the extremity excessively or picking at the dressing may cause the cannula to become dislodged from the vein, allowing infiltration that causes swelling, discomfort and tissue injury with possible necrosis and sloughing.

To provide optimal care to these patients, nurses must have specialized knowledge and skills. PN programs are now required to include IV therapy in the curriculum, but there is still a backlog of practicing LPNs looking for ways to meet requirements for the training they currently need.

A Collaborative Educational Approach

A model workshop program has been established by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, working under the guidance of the Board of Nursing and the Office of Long Term Care. It was created as a teaching project by two registered nurses, Jimmy Birdsong and Alysia Powell, who are currently enrolled in the RN-BSN track



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Questions About the Online Renewal Process

Ed Sweeten • Information Systems Administrator

at the UAMS College of Nursing.

A pilot workshop, created for senior gerontology BSN students, provided practical feedback on objectives and teaching methods prior to implementation of continuing education for LPNs working in long term care in the community. It is now available to LPNs working in long term care.

The content of the workshop incorporates the minimum standards outlined by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and includes:

- Anatomy & physiology
- Include fluid & electrolyte balance
- Patient assessment
- IV equipment
- Introduction of a peripheral IV device on an adult
- Prevention of complications & nursing interventions
- Set up, replacement and removal of tubing for gravity flow and pump infusion
- Calculation and adjustment of IV flow rates
- Monitoring the administration of blood and blood products
- Administration of selected medications by IV piggyback or IV push

Instruction includes pre- and post-tests, Power Point slides, lecture/discussion and handouts, as well as hands-on practice. The content provides a knowledge base for nurses to build on as they receive delegated assignments related to IV therapy, plus the special needs of the older adult requiring IV therapy. The format is easily available for implementation at other schools of nursing. LPNs completing the workshop receive three continuing education hours from the Office of Long term Care.

Address correspondence to Dr. Patricia Edwards-Schafer, UAMS, College of Nursing 4301 West Markham St., Little Rock, AR 72205 (Phone: 501/686-7731 Email edwardsschaferpatricia@uams.edu)

References

Arkansas State Board of Nursing (2004) Guidelines for teaching content related to IV therapy for Arkansas Licensed Practical Nurses and Licensed Practical Nursing Students (Last retrieved 1/30/05: <http://www.arsbn.org/pdfs/guidelines-iv-therapy3.pdf>)

As the number of nurses using the online renewal system has increased, so have the number of questions concerning the process. I hope to address some of the most common questions in this article in order to assist those nurses using the system.

Q: What are the advantages to renewing online as opposed to sending in the application?

A: The main advantage is convenience. The process takes just a few minutes of your time over the Internet as opposed to the time filling out the application, getting an envelope and stamp, then mailing the package to us. The second main advantage is speed of processing. It usually takes a day to have your renewal posted from online as opposed to 9 to 13 days through the mail. Also license turn around time is decreased due to the decrease in the time needed to get the renewal posted.

Q: I don't have a computer or an Internet connection, how can I renew online?

A: Ask your employer if they will allow you to renew your license online. You will find that a majority of facilities will allow their staff to use the facility Internet connection for this purpose. An advantage to this is that someone in the facility familiar with the process could assist you if you had any questions. Another great resource is your local library. Most libraries have an Internet connection available for public use free of charge.

Q: I don't feel comfortable giving out my credit card information over the Internet. Is it safe?

A: Our website uses state of the art security technology so that the information isn't readable to anyone but the intended recipient. This same technology is used by the majority of online retailers and is very safe as is proven by the increases of online sales this last couple of years. Most problems with online transactions occur when someone submits their information to a site made to appear as some other companies. The way to avoid this is not to follow any links to our site. Instead type the address <http://www.arsbn.org> directly into the address bar and press enter. This will ensure that you are at the proper site.

Q: I am at your website and can't find where to renew online. Where do I go?

A: Once you are at the website <http://www.arsbn.org>, in the center of the page click the top link labeled "License Renewal". This will take you to the renewal login screen.

Q: I tried to login to the renewal screen but it's not accepting my information. What do I do?

A: Most of the problems encountered here are due to entering the information incorrectly. Make sure of the following:

1. License number: make sure the number includes the license type alpha character. Also make sure the number is correct. i.e., R11111 or L11111 etc.
2. Social Security Number: Make sure you include the dash between the character sets. i.e. 555-55-5555. A lot of people leave the dashes out. This is not accepted.
3. Date of Birth: Make sure you put the forward slash between the Day, Month, and Year. Also use a four digit year and include a leading zero for single digit days or

months. i.e. 01/01/2005. Other formats are not accepted.

If checking these items does not correct the problem contact me at (501) 686-2736. Our information may need to be corrected.

Q: I tried to login to the renewal screen and got the message "This license cannot be renewed online" what does it mean?

A: Currently the website will not let anyone who has a disciplinary action against them in the past renew online. We will be modifying the site in the future to only exclude people who are currently under disciplinary action, probation, suspension, revocation, or under investigation. I will write an article for the newsletter when these changes are completed.

Q: I entered my information in the first personal information screen and when I click "Next" it doesn't go to the next screen or it goes to the previous screen and prompts that "This license cannot be renewed online" in red letters.

A: This occurs due to a couple of issues. When this happens there will be some text at the top of the page in red. Read the text, it will tell you what information wasn't filled out correctly or was missed. This may occur a few times, but most people read the message the first time and assume it hasn't changed when it happens a second or third time, so they don't read it.

In this case, the screen goes back to the previous page and won't let the license be renewed online. This happens when people don't read the 5 qualifying questions on the page and click no when the answer should have been yes in order to continue. Read the questions before answering them. Our website changes regularly and so may the questions asked. Not reading the questions may stop you from renewing online or at worst case may subject you to disciplinary action for an incorrect answer if you are audited.

Q: The system would not accept my credit card information. Why?

A: When entering the credit card information check for the following:

1. Make sure there are no dashes or spaces between each set of four digits for the credit card number, just enter all of the numbers and make sure they are correct.
2. Make sure the Name information is entered exactly as it is written on the card.
3. Make sure the card expiration date is entered correctly.

Q: Ok, I checked all the above, they are correct, but it still isn't working, what's wrong?

A: Sometimes there are other issues not under our control that cause this problem. The credit card companies computers may be down. Loss of communications. High traffic volume at the card verification company, problems with the phone system, etc. If you feel you were declined in error you need to contact the credit card com-

continued on page 26

Disciplinary Actions—December 2004, January 2005

The full statutory citations for disciplinary actions can be found at www.arsbn.org under *Nurse Practice Act*, Sub Chapter 3, §17-87-309. Frequent violations are ACA §17-87-309 (a)(1) "Is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing or engaged in the practice of nursing without a valid license;" (a)(2) "Is guilty of a crime or gross immorality;" (a)(4) "Is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs;" (a)(6) "Is guilty of unprofessional conduct;" and (a)(9) "Has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this chapter." Other orders by the Board include civil penalties (CP), specific education courses (ED), and research papers (RP). Probation periods vary and may include an impaired-nurse contract with an employer and/or drug monitoring and treatment programs.

Each individual nurse is responsible for reporting any actual or suspected violations of the *Nurse Practice Act*. To submit a report or to receive additional information, contact the Nursing Practice Section at 501.686.2700 or Arkansas State Board of Nursing; 1123 South University, Suite 800; Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.

PROBATION

Andrews, David Martian
R37771, Little Rock
(a)(6), CP \$900

Baillie, Joseph G F
R40371, North Little Rock
(a)(6), CP \$500

Bland, Tameka Lyvette
L36558, Carlisle
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$600

Bugg, William John
R34847, Melbourne
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$1,000

Cagle, Leslie Lynn Hunter
L37752, Conway
(a)(1),(2),(4)&(6), CP \$800

Carter, Dondi Karen Doyle Goodlive
R54891, North Little Rock
(a)(6), CP \$500

Cash, Phillip Owen
L40208, Batesville
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$900

Dorman, Linda Carol Rowe
L28846, Pochahontas
(a)(6), CP \$500

Edwards, Zelma Norlene Higdon
R63601, Gepp
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$900

Esteves-Ostrovsky, Jennifer Jordan
L40773, Lonoke
(a)(6), CP \$500

Kelley, Mary Un Clark
L43351, Jonesboro
(a)(2),(4)&(6), CP \$600

Patton, Milinda Kay Craig
R36253, Pocola, OK
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$1,000

Paxton, Robyn Marie Westfall
L43303, Benton
(a)(2),(4)&(6), CP \$500

Rhodes-Smith, Jeannie Lynette
L10192, North Little Rock
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$900

Sliger, Julie N. Nooner
L41906, Hot Springs
(a)(6), CP \$750

Spriggs, Nikki Kay Gwin
R28633, EL Paso
(a)(4)&(6)

Williams, Jaclyn Michelle
L38220, North Little Rock
(a)(4)&(6), CP \$800

SUSPENSION

Baty, Sheila Jeanette Pierce Davis Scalf
L27438, Harrisburg
CP \$750 plus previous balance

Delgman, Kevin John
R55410, NLR
Probation Non-Compliance
CP \$1000 plus previous balance

Matthias, Cherie Lea Morehead
R31797, P00904(exp), Benton
Probation Non-Compliance
CP \$750 plus previous balance

Pitchford, Ezra
L35040, Dyer
Probation Non-Compliance
CP \$750

Rowlett, Donna Sue
L32936, Beebe
Probation Non-Compliance
CP \$750 plus previous balance

Stone, Tamatha Ann
R53078, Lewisville
Probation Non-Compliance
CP \$750 plus previous balance

Travis, Dawn Elizabeth
R63469, Fayetteville
CP \$1000 plus previous balance

White, Kimberly D. Wherry
R63822, L34491(exp), Pine Bluff
Probation Non-Compliance
CP \$1,000 plus previous balance

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

Barnett, Susan L. Briggs
R54366, Benton

Black, Linda Juanita
L07110, Royal

Boyle, Janice Marie Oldham
L32356, Centerton

Christiansen, Sharon Denise Brooks
Anthony
L31829, Mountain Home

Cook, Jo Ella Brown
R16665, Sidney, IL
December 20, 2004

Foley, Lillian Violet Mann
L14067, Mountain View

Heiskell, April Lynn Dunard
L21867, Richmond Hill, GA

Hickman, James Monroe
R00757, North Little Rock

Pippinger, Myra June Askew
L31702, Star City

Taul, Susan Kathryn Mott
L38738, Little Rock

REINSTATEMENTS WITH PROBATION

Smith, Sharon Denise
R54625, Gurnee, IL

Wright, William Sean
R49960, Glenwood

REPRIMAND

Sexton, Patricia Lynn
R34748, Sherwood

A.C.A. §17-87-309(a)(6)&(9)
Board Reprimand
Civil Penalty - \$540

REVOCAION

Poland, Wayne F.
R51229, C01006, North Conway, NH

PROBATIONARY STATUS REMOVED

Bostic, Verona Maxine Goodwin
R36062, P01356, Little Rock

Boudra, Rebecca Irene Boudra Holliday
Nixon Edwards
L31989, Pine Bluff

ASBN HOT CHECK NOTICE

The following names appear on the ASBN records for checks returned to the ASBN due to insufficient funds. If practicing in Arkansas, they may be in violation of the Nurse Practice Act and could be subject to disciplinary action by the Board. Please contact Darla Erickson at 501.686.2705 if any are employed in your facility.

Bradley, Rosa Marie
L16658

Bratton, Tracey Michelle
L34278

McKee-Murphy, Bobbie
L14764

Shaheed, Nathan
T01220

Sivils, June Elizabeth
L30290

Williams, Sally F.
L26287

continued from page 25

pany to make sure everything is ok with the card, if it is, one of the above problems may be the culprit.

Q: I finished renewing online and the screen came up with a confirmation number, should I save this?

A: Definitely, always print and save your confirmation number until you receive your new license! This serves as your receipt or proof that you made the transaction online and what date and time it occurred in case of a problem. It is very rare, however in the case something goes wrong with processing the transactions and the data is not received or lost this will keep you from having to pay a late fee and face possible disciplinary action. If a transaction does not show up on the computer systems and you do not have the confirmation number it will be treated as if the transaction was never made.

Q: I tried to print my confirmation number and my computer crashed, what do I do now?

A: Contact Information Network of Arkansas at (501)

324-8900. Explain the situation to them. If the transaction shows up in their records they can give you the confirmation number. The Arkansas State Board of Nursing does not have access to this number.

Q: I went through the renewal process and my computer crashed before I got the confirmation number, what do I do now?

A: If you completed the entire renewal process and never received the confirmation number due to computer lockup or other error. Chances are your transaction was not processed. To confirm whether the transaction was processed or not call Information Network of Arkansas at (501) 324-8900. They will be able to confirm whether or not the transaction was processed and whether or not the charges were applied to your card. If you received the confirmation number, do not call INA.

Q: I renewed online and haven't received my license yet. What's going on?

A: Online transactions are usually processed the next day. Weekend transactions are processed the following Monday. Please allow two weeks for delivery of your license before contacting us. If you still have not received a license contact us. The majority of the time this happens when the person has moved and has failed to update their address information with us. These are returned to us which delays the process even further. It is imperative that any time you move we get a change of address request from you or you change it online. All communications from our office (renewal notices, licenses, etc.) are sent to the address we have on file for you. I hope this will answer most of your questions about using the online renewal system. It's an easy and convenient way to renew your license. I hope more of you will take advantage of the system as it is there for your benefit. Until next time, happy computing.

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Disciplinary Actions



Documentation



Ethics of Nursing Practice



Medication Errors



Nurse Practice Acts



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ARKANSAS NURSES

IN NCSBN'S ITEM WRITING/REVIEW PANEL POOL

By Calvina Thomas
Assistant Director of Nursing Education

Since 1993, seventy-three Arkansas Nurses have volunteered their time and expertise for item writing sessions and review panels for the NCLEX® examination. National Council State Boards of Nursing, in conjunction with state boards of nursing, develop and maintain the NCLEX exam which tests entry-level nursing competencies of registered and licensed practical nurses.

The development of the NCLEX test questions is a rigorous, multi-step process that involves volunteer nurses from across the nation. The process includes writing the questions, analysis and review of those questions, pre-testing, statistical analysis, and review by expert panels. The average time for one NCLEX question from start to finish is eighteen months.

The item writing and review panels include nurses from various geographic regions, clinical specialties, and practice set-

tings. The panels meet various times throughout the year in Chicago for three to five days. Travel, lodging, and most meal expenses are covered.

The nurse who volunteers and is approved will be a candidate for a panel for two years. During that time when a panel needs the nurse's expertise area, he or she will be contacted to serve. This experience is an excellent opportunity to network with other nurses from across the nation, learn new skills in professional development, and contribute to the continuing excellence in nursing practice. Continuing education credits are also awarded to the panelist.

The following nurses are current candidates for the item writing or review panels.

Deb Moore, RN, at Northwest Technical Institute at Springdale, wrote, "I was most impressed by the security measures at the Pearson Vue building. We were accompanied into the building and only allowed to carry in the items that were previously sent to us. Everyone took breaks and lunches together in another secured area. Laptops and reference text books were provided. The item writing was essentially based on

our knowledge base, using their test writing program. They made me feel very valued as a nurse. I remember one morning they were having technical difficulties. They asked me to use just type in my questions in the word processing program. When the technical difficulties were resolved, I started to enter the questions I had written earlier. They came around and stated that they had a secretary that could transfer that information; they wanted me to continue to write test items, that my experience was too valuable to them to have me perform clerical duties. Overall, I feel it was an incredible experience and feel very honored to have been selected to be part of the licensing process.

To apply or reapply to become a panel candidate go to www.ncsbn.org and select Item Development On-Line Application.

NAME	TITLE	AREA	APPOINTED	IN	2004
NAME	TITLE	AREA			
Patricia Buggs	RN	El Dorado	Sherry Akins	RN	Camden
Geraldine Campbell	RN	West Helena	Connie Ash	RN	Blytheville
Valarie Clemons	RN	Brinkley	Tracy Bolton	RN	Searcy
Tammy Drake	RN	Hensley	William Buron	RN	Rogers
Dana Gardner	RN	Hot Springs	Vonna Cranston	RN	Hot Springs
Joyce Grant-Scott	RN	Pine Bluff	Terry Highsmith	LPN	Camden
Stacey Greer	RN	Atkins	Landon Horton	RN	Fort Smith
Karen Kilgore	RN	Camden	Susan Kontir	RN	Fort Smith
Mary King	RN	West Helena	Lisa Lantrip	RN	Pine Bluff
Kathleen McMahan	RN	Camden	Debbie Laws	RN	Carlisle
Carol Meadows	RN	Fayetteville	Melissa McCrary	LPN	Conway
Lana Strickland	RN	Little Rock	Elizabeth Pratt	RN	El Dorado
Peggy Jean Walker	RN	Heber Springs	Carmen Ramey	LPN	El Dorado
Marilyn Yergler	RN	Fisher	Penny Sims	RN	Kingland



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Scholarship News:

Unfortunately at this time our scholarship fund continues to have insufficient monies to award scholarships. I ask everyone to think about their financial needs while attending nursing school and how a scholarship helped or could have helped.

Arkansas has approximately 47,000 licensed nurses. Just think of the scholarships we could award if each nurse donated \$1 to this fund when renewing their license! What about a donation in the name of the nurse who has everything? Or in honor of, remembrance of, etc. We will be implementing several ways of allowing everyone the painless

opportunity to actually do this. As your charitable donations are reviewed this tax season, please put ASBN's Scholarship Fund down for next year. Every donation to a charitable organization is deductible.

Another upcoming event will be our ASBN Scholarship Fund 1st Annual Golf Scramble that is planned for June! Be watching to see what you might be able to do to make this a success! You will hear more as this is put in place.

- Alisa R. Caple



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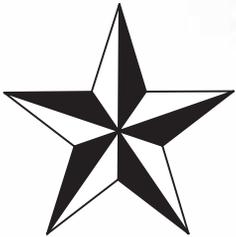
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