



**South Carolina Board of Nursing
October 2009 Insert into the SC Nurse Newsletter**

MISSION OF THE BOARD OF NURSING

The mission of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina is the protection of public health, safety, and welfare by assuring safe and competent practice of nursing.

This mission is accomplished by assuring safe initial practice as well as continuing competency in the practice of nursing and by promoting nursing excellence in the areas of education and practice. The Board licenses qualified individuals as licensed practical nurses, registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses. Complaints against nurses are investigated and disciplinary action taken when necessary. Schools of nursing are surveyed and approved to ensure quality education for future nurses.

BOARD VACANCY

There are currently four vacancies on the Board of Nursing. Members serve terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. Board members must be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

When appointing members to the Board of Nursing, the Governor will give consideration to include a diverse representation of principal areas of nursing including, but not limited to, hospital, acute care, advanced practice, community health, and nursing education. Registered nurse and licensed practical nurse members must be licensed in South Carolina, must be employed in nursing, must have at least three years of practice in their respective professions immediately preceding their appointment, and shall reside in the district they represent.

The first vacancy on the Board is for the Registered Nurse (RN) representative from Congressional District 4. The second vacancies are for Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) representatives for Regions I and II. Region I includes Congressional Districts 1, 2, and 3. Region II includes Congressional Districts 4, 5 and 6. There is also a vacancy for a Lay Member. Lay members represent the public at large as a consumer of nursing services and may not be licensed or employed as a health care provider. No board member may serve as an officer of a professional health-related state association.

An individual, group, or association may nominate qualified persons and submit them to the Governor's Office for consideration. If you or someone you know is interested in one of these Board of Nursing positions, they should submit a letter of request, along with a resume or curriculum vitae to Boards and Commissions, Governor's Office, Post Office Box 11829, Columbia, SC 29211. If you are not sure of your congressional district, you may check your district at http://www.scvotes.org/check_your_voter_registration.

LICENSE CARDS NO LONGER ISSUED

Starting with the 2010 - 2012 renewal cycle, the Board will no longer issue a license card. When a licensee obtains a new license or renews his/her license, a card will **not** be mailed.

Licensees renewing their licenses will be notified by e-mail or regular mail once the licensure fees have been posted to their records. They will then be able to check the Web site and print a copy of their license information. This information can also be viewed and printed by employers or the public. When a license number is assigned to a new licensee, an e-mail or letter will notify the individual of his/her license number and expiration date. Once a licensee is notified, he/she can check online and print a copy of the license information.

RENEWAL COUNTDOWN - - - - 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

It is not too early to begin thinking about your 2010 nursing license renewal. Online renewals will begin in February 2010. You may be randomly audited at any time, so be prepared to document the competency option you chose ***prior*** to renewing.

Section 40-33-40 of the Nurse Practice Act states that renewal of an active license biennially requires documented evidence of at least one of the requirements listed below during the two year licensure period. You are not required to complete more than one of the options. For this renewal, we will be looking at competencies completed *and* documented between **May 1, 2008 and April 30, 2010** and ***prior*** to renewal of your license.

(a) completion of 30 contact hours from a Board-recognized continuing education provider; **OR**

(b) maintenance of certification or re-certification by a Board-recognized national certifying body; **OR**

(c) completion of a Board-recognized academic program of study in nursing or a related field; **OR**

(d) verification of competency and the number of hours practiced, as evidenced by employer certification on a Board-approved form.

Prior to renewing your nursing license, please review your documentation demonstrating continuing nursing competence. Do not submit this documentation unless you are selected for the random competency audit and requested to do so. Here are a few suggestions that we hope you will find helpful as you think about your 2010 renewal.

- When you renew your license and choose a continued competency option, that option must be completed and documented ***prior*** to renewing your license. The Competency Requirement and Competency Requirement Criteria can be found on our web site under Licensure. When you complete your renewal, you are attesting that you have completed the competency option chosen and that all information on your renewal application is true and correct.
- As you review **continuing education** courses for renewal of your license, verify on the Competency Requirement Criteria that the course is accepted by the Board. Remember the requirement is 30 contact hours not 30 CEUs (continuing education units). Documentation of continuing education must include your name, the title of

the educational activity, activity date, number of contact hours awarded and the name of the approving provider/organization name, number and address.

- Considering obtaining or renewing a special nursing **certification**? Review the Competency Requirement Criteria. Your certification may meet the requirements to renew your nursing license. Documentation of certification must include your name, certifying organization, certification title, date awarded and expiration date.
- If you receive a higher **nursing degree** during the renewal period (May 1, 2008 - April 30, 2010) and choose that option for renewal, a transcript must be submitted to the Board directly from the school.
- Before choosing the employer **Verification of Competency** option, make sure your employer can and will sign your Employer Certification which can be found on our Web site under Applications/Forms. If that option is available, you may want to consider having your employer sign the form at your annual performance review to avoid the renewal rush. Do not assume that your employer will sign the form. Please be aware that some employers by facility policy cannot sign the forms verifying competency.
- **Do not submit this documentation unless you are selected for the random competency audit and requested to do so.**
- Keep a special folder in a safe place for your nurse licensure information. As you gather information, place it in the front of your folder so that it is always in chronological order. You will be ready should you be selected for the competency audit. Your nurse license folder may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - User ID and password for online renewal.
 - Printed copy of your biennial online renewal and payment receipt.
 - Copies of continuing education certificates.
 - Copies of your certifications and re-certifications including the certificates for the required continuing education.
 - If you are in school to obtain a higher nursing degree and choose this option for your renewal, a copy of your transcript will need to be mailed directly from your educational institution if you are audited.
 - Copies of Employer Certification and Nursing Practice Hours Worked.
 - Copies of *any* documentation sent to the Board regarding your license.

We hope this information will assist you with your renewal. Remember, it is never too early to begin planning for your next renewal.

Online Application for Initial Licensure Available for Nurses

The Nursing Board has recently made changes to the initial licensure process in an effort to become more efficient, to streamline processes and to move towards a paperless licensure system.

An online application for initial licensure is now available for those seeking to obtain a RN or LPN license by examination. In the future, the online application will be available for individuals applying for a license by endorsement and Advanced Practice.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

How's the view?.....as a patient that is. Being a patient is, at times, an almost unbearable job description but it is you, the nurse, who can change the scenery.

For example, when a patient experiences pain the “view” is very distorted and the patient is thinking about nothing else except the pain they are experiencing and perhaps what you will or will not do for the patient in order to relieve the pain.

In order to assist you in seamless nursing care, the South Carolina Board of Nursing and the South Carolina Pharmacy Board have joined together and developed a Joint Position Statement on Pain. This document is available on our Web site – www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/. The document reflects the web site for the Board of Medical Examiners Pain Management Guidelines. In addition, the National Council State Boards of Nursing also has a position paper on pain which the Board has adopted. Review these documents wisely and apply them to your practice utilizing your knowledge, skills and abilities which will be priceless to your patient.

As you change the “view” favorably for the patient what the patient will see is a very talented, caring, professional that is highly respected with the patient as the number one focus.

NCSBN Unveils New Nursys.com Web Site with Enhanced Nurse Licensure Verification Tools

Chicago - National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Nursys.com license verification Web site recently unveiled a new and improved verification process, which makes nurse license verification quicker, easier and free of charge to employers and the general public.

The Licensure QuickConfirm application allows employers and the general public to verify licenses from a public access Nursys licensure participating board of nursing.* Within minutes, a detailed report is generated, containing the nurse's name, jurisdiction, license type, license number, license status, expiration dates, as made available by the board of nursing for all licenses held, and any discipline against the license.

In addition, Nursys.com also enables nurses to verify their license(s) from a Nursys licensure participating board of nursing** when applying for endorsement into another state by using the online Nurse Licensure Verification application. Nurses can verify their licenses by completing the Nursys verification process for \$30.00 per license type, per each state board of nursing where the nurse is applying. The nurse's license verification is available immediately to the endorsing board of nursing.

For those states participating in the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), Nursys.com can be used to verify a nurse's NLC status (multistate/single state) and any discipline against privilege to practice from an NLC state. A nurse must legally reside in an NLC state in order to be eligible for a multistate license in the NLC. An active, unencumbered, multistate license allows the nurse to practice in all 23 NLC*** jurisdictions.

** QuickConfirm Public Access Licensure Participating Boards of Nursing as of May 1, 2009: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana - RN, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North*

Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia - PN, Wisconsin, Wyoming

** Nursys Licensure Participating Boards of Nursing as of May 1, 2009: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana - RN, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia - PN, Wisconsin, Wyoming

** NLC Participating States as of May 1, 2009: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REGULATION

An Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who wishes to prescribe controlled substances in Schedules III - V, must complete the South Carolina Controlled Substances Registration Application (www.sc.dhec.gov/administrative/library/D-117A.pdf), and submit it along with a copy of their nursing license with prescriptive authority to Bureau of Drug Control, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. An applicant may submit their application and request that it be held until after January 1, if the start date for practice in South Carolina is after that date. Applicants who have a federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration may transfer their registration by accessing the US DEA Web site at www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov by completing an address change request. APRNs may apply for both federal and state registration for controlled substances with the Bureau of Drug Control, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Questions regarding controlled substance registration should be directed to the Bureau of Drug Control at 803-896-0634.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Section 40-33-38(C) of the Nurse Practice Act requires that *all* licensees notify the Board within 15 days of an address change. Addresses changes are not accepted over the telephone. *Changing your address with the South Carolina Nurses Association does not change your address on your licensure file with the Board.* If you use a post office box for mailing purposes, we also require a physical address for our records. So that you do not incur disciplinary action or miss important time sensitive information such as your renewal or audit notices or other important licensure information, be sure to notify the Board immediately whenever you change addresses. You may change your address on-line under Online Services on our Web site: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/. If moving from one state to another, please indicate your primary state of residence. 'Primary state of residence' as defined by the Compact means the "person's declared fixed permanent and principal home for legal purposes; domicile". Sources of proof that boards of nursing may use to verify primary residence include, but are not limited to, federal tax return, voter registration, or driver's license.

OFFICE OF LICENSURE AND COMPLIANCE CONTACT INFORMATION:

(Questions on Compliance, Discipline, Monitoring, Submitted Licensure Applications)

Main Telephone Line (803) 896-4550
Fax Line (803) 896-4525

S.C. BOARD OF NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION:

(Questions prior to Submission of License Application as well as Education & Practice)

Main Telephone Line (803) 896-4550
Fax Line (803) 896-4515
General Email Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov
Web site www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/

Administration

Joan K. Bainer, Administrator bainerj@llr.sc.gov
Dottie M. Buchanan, Assistant to Administrator dbuchana@llr.sc.gov

Nursing Education

Nancy G. Murphy, Nurse Consultant murphyn@llr.sc.gov

Nursing Practice / Advanced Practice

nurseboard@llr.sc.gov

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Main Telephone Line (803) 896-4470

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Main Telephone Line (803) 896-4470

OFFICE LOCATION/HOURS OF OPERATION

The Board of Nursing is located at Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Suite 202, Columbia, SC 29210. Directions to our office can be found on our Web site – www.llronline

Our mailing address is LLR - South Carolina Board of Nursing, Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211-2367.

Our normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our offices are closed for holidays designated by the State.

Walk-in applications [Advanced Practice, Endorsement & Reactivation/Reinstatement] are processed during normal business hours. Our offices are closed on designated State holidays.

VISIT US ON OUR WEB SITE: www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/

The Board of Nursing Web site contains the Nurse Practice Act, Regulations, Compact Information, Advisory Opinions, Licensure applications, Continued Competency Requirements, Application Status, Licensee Lookup, Disciplinary Actions, and other information. All nurses are encouraged to visit the Web site *at least* monthly for up-to-date information.

Board of Nursing Meeting Calendar For Remainder of 2009 & 2010 (Agendas are posted at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/ 24 hours prior to the meeting.)

Board of Nursing	September 24-25, 2009
Board of Nursing	November 19-20, 2009
Board of Nursing	January 28-29, 2010
Board of Nursing	March 25-26, 2010
Board of Nursing	May 20-21, 2010
Board of Nursing	July 29-30, 2010
Board of Nursing	September 30-October 1, 2010
Board of Nursing	November 18-19, 2010

Advanced Practice Committee	November 6, 2009
Advanced Practice Committee	February 5, 2010
Advanced Practice Committee	May 7, 2010
Advanced Practice Committee	August 6, 2010
Advanced Practice Committee	November 5, 2010

Advisory Committee on Nursing	October 20, 2009
Advisory Committee on Nursing	December 1, 2009
Advisory Committee on Nursing	February 16, 2010
Advisory Committee on Nursing	April 20, 2010
Advisory Committee on Nursing	June 15, 2010
Advisory Committee on Nursing	August 31, 2010
Advisory Committee on Nursing	October 19, 2010
Advisory Committee on Nursing	December 7, 2010

Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	October 15, 2009
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	December 17, 2009
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	January 14, 2010
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	April 8, 2010
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	July 8, 2010
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	October 14, 2010

Designated State Holidays For Remainder of 2009

Veterans Day	November 11, 2009
Thanksgiving Day	November 26-27, 2009
Christmas Day	December 24-28, 2009 (Observed)