

**South Carolina Board of Nursing**  
**June 2010 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 VACANCIES**

There are currently four vacancies on the South Carolina 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 must reside in the district they represent. If you are not sure of your congressional district, you may check your district at [www.scvotes.org/check\\_your\\_voter\\_registration](http://www.scvotes.org/check_your_voter_registration).

There is a vacancy on the Board for one registered nurse representative from Congressional District 4. There are vacancies for licensed practical nurse 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 consumers 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 requests to the Governor's Office for consideration. If you or someone you know is interested in one of these Board of Nursing positions, a letter of request, along with a resume or curriculum vitae, should be submitted to Boards and Commissions, Governor's Office, Post Office Box 11829, Columbia, SC 29211.

**FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR**

The South Carolina State Board of Nursing marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of regulation on February 23, 2010. The Board will be recognized for this centennial milestone at the National Council State Boards of Nursing Annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, in August 2010.

Many talented and dedicated people, nurses and non-nurses, assisted in promulgating regulations over the years to help the Board fulfill its mission of assuring the safe and effective practice of nursing in South Carolina. In addition, other disciplines, associations and states have assisted the Board of Nursing in formulating best practices.

Why is regulation so important? Because regulation provides consistent and solid guidelines for practice, licensing and discipline. Regulation also sets forth requirements for approval of nursing education programs. Regulation ultimately protects the public as policies, procedures and specific practice decisions are based on regulation. The regulation for nursing, Chapter 33, the Nurse Practice

Act, can be accessed at [www.llr.sc/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.sc/pol/nursing/) on the Board of Nursing's webpage. Click on LAWS on the left and then Chapter 33 for easy access and printing of the document.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding regulation, email [nurseboard@llr.sc.gov](mailto:nurseboard@llr.sc.gov) and you will receive a written response.

Congratulations South Carolina State Board of Nursing for a job well done.

### **REQUEST FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES TO SERVE ON H3393 COMMITTEE**

House bill 3393 was approved during this legislative session. The following information is noted as related to the bill and the responsibilities of the South Carolina State Board of Nursing:

- H3393 requires the establishment a protocol authorizing pharmacists to administer flu vaccines without an order of a practitioner.
- The need to establish a Joint Pharmacist Administered Influenza Vaccines Committee comprised of two physicians selected by the Board of Medical Examiners, two pharmacists selected by the Pharmacy Board and two Advanced Practice Registered Nurses selected by the Board of Nursing.
- The committee shall meet at least once annually and at other times as necessary.
- The committee shall assist and advise the Board of Medical Examiners in establishing a written protocol for the purpose of authorizing pharmacists to administer influenza vaccines without an order of a practitioner.

Therefore, the South Carolina State Board of Nursing is requesting Advanced Practice Registered Nurses interested in serving on this committee submit the following information for consideration as a committee member:

- A cover letter stating your request and a notation regarding your practice experience related to vaccines.
- Copy of your curriculum vitae or resume.

Please forward all documents to:

Joan Bainer MN RN NE BC  
Administrator, South Carolina State Board of Nursing  
110 Centerview Drive Suite 202  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1329

### **WITNESSING NARCOTIC WASTAGE**

Recently, the South Carolina State Board of Nursing has been receiving multiple complaints regarding the wastage of narcotics. Nurses are signing the narcotic sheet indicating that they have actually witnessed the disposal of a narcotic when in fact the nurse never observed the wastage occur.

This unwitnessed wastage is a violation of the Nurse Practice Act, the Pharmacy Act and a Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) regulation. It is very important and mandated for the nurse to actually observe the wastage. If the observation does not take place, the following scenarios could occur:

- ❖ The nurse that witnessed the wastage could be cited with falsification of records, which would include a public reprimand and a civil penalty.
- ❖ The nurse that asked the nurse to witness the wastage at another time than the actual time the medication was not needed could be required to have an evaluation done for possible drug diversion in collaboration with the Recovering Professional Program (RPP) practice.
- ❖ An investigation related to drug diversion would be initiated if this practice occurs.
- ❖ DHEC could possibly arrest the nurse that did not obtain a witness according to policy if there is enough evidence to support drug diversion.
- ❖ Facilities could be cited for failure to properly secure narcotics.

Therefore, the Board of Nursing cautions you to maintain the following practices as related to administration and wasting of narcotics:

- ❖ Obtain a witness immediately for wastage.
- ❖ Dispose of the unused narcotics immediately.
- ❖ Never share narcotics.
- ❖ Never save a portion of the narcotic for later.
- ❖ Document immediately and accurately.
- ❖ It is your responsibility to report any deviations from the normal standard of practice, including issues related to narcotics to the South Carolina State Board of Nursing.

### **ARE YOU AN APRN, RN OR LPN WORKING AS A MEDICATION TECH OR UNLICENSED ASSISTIVE PERSONNEL?**

Due to limited nursing resources, many nurses are being asked to work as an unlicensed nurse in many settings across the state. While the nurse may need to have this job description change as requested by the employer, the South Carolina State Board of Nursing cautions you that you, the nurse, will still be held to the highest licensure standard that you possess.

In addition, the nurse cannot utilize these practice hours when renewing his or her license, Option 4, on the renewal form, as this does not constitute nursing practice. Contact hours could be obtained to maintain your licensure.

### **A URINE DRUG SCREEN FOR A PATIENT?????**

Sometimes a patient may state that he/she may not have been receiving pain medication or that his/her pain is unrelieved by the pain medication administered to them by the nurse. As a nurse and a patient advocate, you need to consider if the patient is really receiving the medication as noted on the medication administration record and the narcotic sheet.

With a doctor's order, you may test the patient's urine for drug screen to validate the pain medication is being given as ordered and perform a urine drug screen on the patient's nurse concurrently if you suspect diversion of narcotics per your facility's policy.

The nurse responsible for the internal investigation has an obligation to report his/her findings within 15 days to the South Carolina State Board of Nursing by utilizing a complaint form located on the webpage at [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/).

### **WALLET CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR LLR LICENSEES**

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) has heard from many licensees that they would like a wallet card identifying them as licensed in their chosen occupation or profession, and we listened.

Licensees now have the capability through LLR's Web site to download and print a wallet card as a courtesy. The cards can be printed from your printer at your convenience, and you will need Adobe Reader installed on your PC to view and print the card. For best results, use card stock instead of copy paper to print a more durable card.

#### **Instructions to Print Your Wallet Card**

1. Go to <https://verify.llronline.com>
2. Click on the "Print License Card" link on the left of the screen.
3. Login with your username and password or last five digits of SSN & last name/company name.
4. Click Login.
5. A list of all active licenses will appear on screen.
6. Click the PDF icon to the right for the license you want to print.
7. The wallet card will open in a new Adobe Reader window.

8. Print the wallet card.
9. Logout.

### **EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES**

Want to receive updated information in the most time effective way? Make sure you let us know of any email changes so that we can update your records. The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR), including the Board of Nursing, is utilizing E-Blasts to get information out to our licensees. The LLR Ledger is sent to licensees on a quarterly basis. This document includes important information on nursing as well as other areas of our agency such as Labor, OSHA, Fire Marshal and other licensing boards.

You may update your email address by logging in under Online Services on our Web site-<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/>. The user ID and password are the same as used for renewal. If you do not remember your user ID and password, click below the sign on information. You will be asked to provide information to verify your identity and receive your information. After logging in, you will have to option to change your address. The bottom of the screen has the email address currently on file with our office. If there is a change, just click on update and make the correction.

### **NAME CHANGE ON NURSING LICENSE**

If you have a legal name change, please submit your written request including your South Carolina nursing license number along with a copy of the legal document(s) (copy of marriage certificate, divorce degree, court order, etc.) to Nursing License Name Change, LLR-Office of Licensure and Compliance, Post Office Box 12517, Columbia, SC 29211. Please indicate whether you will use your middle name or maiden name for your middle initial. For example, if Jane Ann Doe marries John Smith will she use Jane Ann Smith? or Jane Doe Smith? or Jane Ann Doe Smith? Or Jane Ann Doe-Smith? Your request will be processed within five business days of receipt in our offices and will be reflected on Licensee Lookup within three to five business days after the change is made.

You may verify that your request has been processed on Licensee Lookup on our Web site ([www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/)). Please refer to Section 04-33-36(B) of the Nurse Practice Act regarding legal requirements for your name on your license. You may view the Nurse Practice Act-Chapter 33 is located under Law/Policies on our Web site

### **HAVE YOU MOVED?**

Section 40-33-38(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws (Nurse Practice Act) requires that *all* licensees notify the Board *in writing* within 15 days of *any* address change. So you do not miss important time sensitive information, such as your courtesy renewal notice, audit notice or other important licensure information, please be sure to notify the Board immediately whenever you change addresses. Failure to notify the Board of an address change may result in a public reprimand and \$500 civil penalty. You may change your address on-line utilizing the address change form under Online Services found on the Board's Web site: [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/).

***Please Note:*** *Changing your address with the South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA) does not change your address on your licensing records with the South Carolina Board of Nursing.*

### **TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

When was the last time you visited the Board's Web site? The Board recommends that all nurses visit the Web site ([www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/)) *at least* monthly for up-to-date information on nursing licensure. When a new advisory opinion is issued or a current advisory opinion revised, it is updated on the Web site within two weeks after Board approval. The Competency Requirement, Competency Requirement Criteria, Licensure information, Advisory Opinions, Position Statements, and the Nurse Practice Act are just a few of the valuable tools and information you will find on the Web site.

The Advisory Opinions, Position Statements and the Nurse Practice Act are located under Laws/Policies. The Competency Requirement and Competency Requirement Criteria, which includes continuing education contact hours, are located under Licensure.

The Board hopes you will find this information useful in your nursing practice.

### **RETURNED CHECKS**

When submitting any fees to the Board of Nursing, please be certain there are sufficient funds in your account to cover your check and that the check has cleared before closing any account. Section 40-1-50(G) of the South Carolina Code of Laws states that a license shall be suspended if a fee payment is made by a check that is subsequently returned by the financial institution unpaid and is not made good within 10 days of official notification. This suspension is exempt from the Administrative Procedures Act. Unpaid checks constitute a non-payment of license fees. When a check is returned, replacement funds plus the returned check fee allowed by law will be charged.

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

C. Lynn Lewis, RN, EdD, MHS, Congressional District 3 - *President*

Sylvia A. Whiting, PhD, APRN-BC, Congressional District 1- *Vice-President*

Trey Pennington, Public Member - *Secretary*

Carrie H. James, RN, MSN, CNA-BC, CCE, Congressional District 6

Rose Kearney-Nunnery, RN, PhD, CNE, Congressional District 2

Brenda Y. Martin, RNC, MN, CNAA, Congressional District 5

Vacancies: [See Section 40-33-10(A) of the Nurse Practice Act]

Registered Nurse - Congressional District 4

Licensed Practical Nurse - Region I (Congressional Districts 1, 2, & 3)

Licensed Practical Nurse - Region II (Congressional Districts 3, 4 & 5)

One Public Member

### **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](mailto:Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov)

Web site

[www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/)

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.com](http://www.llronline.com) Our mailing address is LLR – OBS - SC Board of Nursing, Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211-2367. Applications and license related correspondence should be sent directly to the Office of Licensure and Compliance (OLC).

Our normal agency 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.

### **Administration**

Joan K. Bainer, Administrator

[bainerj@llr.sc.gov](mailto:bainerj@llr.sc.gov)

Dottie M. Buchanan, Assistant to Administrator

[dbuchana@llr.sc.gov](mailto:dbuchana@llr.sc.gov)

### **Nursing Education**

Nancy G. Murphy, Nurse Consultant

[murphyn@llr.sc.gov](mailto:murphyn@llr.sc.gov)

### **Nursing Practice / Advanced Practice**

Birdie Felkel, Nurse Consultant

[felkelb@llr.sc.gov](mailto:felkelb@llr.sc.gov)

**OFFICE OF LICENSURE AND COMPLIANCE (OLC) CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

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

OLC is located at Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Suite 306, Columbia, SC 29210. Walk-in applications [Advanced Practice, Endorsement & Reactivation/Reinstatement] are processed during normal agency business hours. Mailing address: LLR–Office of Licensure & Compliance, Post Office Box 12517, Columbia, SC 29211.

**OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

Main Telephone Line (803) 896-4470

**OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT**

Main Telephone Line (803) 896-4470

**VISIT US ON OUR WEB SITE: [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing/)**

The Board of Nursing Web site contains the Nurse Practice Act (Chapter 33) /Regulations (Chapter 91), Compact Information, Advisory Opinions, Licensure applications, Continued Competency Requirements, Application Status, Licensee Lookup, Disciplinary Actions, and other helpful 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 2010**

(Agendas are posted at on Web site 24 hours prior meeting.)

Board of Nursing	Jul 29-30, 2010
Board of Nursing	Sep. 30-Oct. 1, 2010
Board of Nursing	Nov. 18-19, 2010
Advanced Practice Committee	Aug. 6, 2010
Advanced Practice Committee	Nov. 5, 2010
Advisory Committee on Nursing	Apr. 20, 2010-Cancelled
Advisory Committee on Nursing	Jun. 15, 2010 -Cancelled
Advisory Committee on Nursing	Aug. 31, 2010
Advisory Committee on Nursing	Oct. 19, 2010
Advisory Committee on Nursing	Dec. 7, 2010
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	Jul. 8, 2010
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	Oct. 14, 2010

**Designated State Holidays For Remainder of 2010**

Independence Day	Jul. 5, 2010
Labor Day	Sep. 6, 2010
Veterans Day	Nov. 11, 2010
Thanksgiving Day/ Day After Thanksgiving	Nov. 25-26, 2010
Christmas Eve/Christmas Day/Day After Christmas	Dec. 24-28, 2010 ( <i>Proposed observance</i> )