



RN UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas



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BNE's New Customer Service Group: A Step in the Right Direction

Have you had the experience of calling the Board office and being placed on hold for an extended time? Or, have you had your call routed only to get someone's voice mail? The agency is addressing the problem of timely response to telephone calls by implementing a new Customer Service Team. This team's primary responsibility is to answer telephone calls and research the questions that need more than a few minutes to answer. By streamlining this process, we will be able to answer more calls as well as more promptly respond to questions that need research, thus reducing your wait on the phone.

The Board staff wants to provide you the timely service you need, however, it is a challenge to meet the demand. The Board of Nurse Examiners receives approximately 250,000 phone calls to the main office telephone number each fiscal year. This does not include the number of calls received directly by individual staff members throughout the agency. The Customer Service Team concept will expand the number of staff available for calls during peak renewal periods and other times as necessary.

Most calls to the BNE concern renewals, address changes, verifications and inquiries as to status of a license. If all RNs' current addresses were in the BNE's permanent database, one third of all the calls received by the Board would be unnecessary. Please remember to notify the BNE office when your address changes. This ensures timely receipt of information you need such as renewal notices, *RN Updates*, and continuing education audits. Address changes are accepted via postal mail or e-mail to webmaster@mail.bne.state.tx.us.

Customer Service Team training is under way and the impact of full implementation should be noticed in the first quarter of the new calendar year. The Board welcomes your feedback on staff responses to your questions. Direct your comments to Mark Majek, Director of Operations. He can be reached at the Board office or by e-mail at majekm@mail.bne.state.tx.us.

Board to Meet in Temple in January

The Board of Nurse Examiners will hold their January meeting at the Mayborn Convention Center in Temple, January 20-21. The meeting is open to the public and begins at 8:30 a.m.

The Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas



Seated (L-R): John Fonteno, Jr.; Linda Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP; Nancy Boston; Marcelo Laijas, Jr. Standing (L-R): Sue McGee, MSN, RN; Elizabeth Poster, PhD, RN; Kenneth Lowrance, MS, RN, CS, FNP-C; Mary Letrice Kemp Brown, BSN, RN; Thalia Munoz, MS, RN.

In This Issue:

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The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., has provided data showing that Texas graduates exceed the national average pass rate again

Potassium Chloride Administration (p.4)

Reporting of errors involving administration of intravenous potassium chloride indicates an ongoing problem for nurses

BNE to Report Disciplinary Actions to HIPDB (p.5)

The Board is now required to report disciplinary action taken against Texas RNs to Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank

Meet the New Board Members (p.6-7)

Governor George W. Bush appointed two new members, Sue McGee, MSN, RN, and Linda Rounds, PhD, RN, and reappointed Marcelo Laijas to fill the vacant Consumer Position in 1999. In this issue, Sue McGee and Linda Rounds discuss issues affecting professional nursing, how the profession has changed, and what RNs can expect in the coming years.

A Word from the Executive Director



Kathy Thomas, MN, RN

Regulation in the New Millennium

To some extent, the events of the past few years have already begun to shape regulation in the 21st century. In 1995, The Pew Commission sent a wake up call to the regulatory community in their report entitled *Reforming Health Care Workforce Regulation: Policy Considerations for the 21st Century*. Although all of their recommendations were not deemed to have merit by regulatory authorities, certainly much of this report created "food for thought" for a system that was soon to see its 100 year mark in history. For the Board of Nurse Examiners, **Continued Competency and Jurisprudence pilots** underway over the past two years resulted, in part, from these recommendations. The pilot project will examine mechanisms to assure the continued competence and the knowledge of laws and regulations of registered nurses. Recommendations from these studies will be presented to the legislature in 2001. It is too early to tell the nature of these recommendations, but the studies themselves have already generated constructive discussion in the nursing community.

The Board will implement the **Nurse Licensure Compact** in January 2000, creating a new regulatory system which recognizes licenses from other states and extends a privilege to practice across state lines. This new model was unheard of 5-6 years ago. But nursing regulation recognized that growing telepractice and increased mobility of nurses were signs that the old system would not meet the needs of the next century. A study during the first five years of implementation will determine the effectiveness and efficiency of this new model. Although the Compact does not require uniform licensure requirements from state to state, uniformity is desirable and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing has already adopted such standards. As states begin adopting uniform standards for licensure, boards of nursing will make another positive step toward improving regulation across state lines.

What other issues loom on the horizon? Consumers have become increasingly vocal about access to information, disciplinary action against health care providers, and quality of care issues, in general. Congress has created the **Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank** to capture multiple types of disciplinary actions against health care providers and this data bank is currently being implemented by the federal government. See page 5 for an article on the data bank.

Consumers, legislators, and others have also raised concerns about the criminal background of health care providers and state legislatures are beginning to require background checks on potential and active licensees. Public access to disciplinary, criminal, civil, and other actions against health care providers will also continue to be issues in the new millennium.

A crystal ball would be nice, but just monitoring trends and issues in health care workforce regulation helps the Board forecast changes in regulation. Please keep the Board apprised of your own concerns about regulation. Your ideas are welcomed as the Board thoughtfully considers new directions. You have opportunities to send letters, send e-mails to our webmaster, answer surveys of the Board, and attend the open forums held at each of the Board's quarterly meetings. Let us know your ideas and thoughts on the future of nursing regulation.



The Board of Nurse Examiners For the State of Texas

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Texas Remains Above National Average On Licensure Exam

The average pass rate for graduates of Texas nursing programs who took the NCLEX-RN® for the first time during the time period of October 1, 1998 through September 30, 1999 was 86.8%. The national average pass rate for the same time period was 84.7%. This is the thirteenth consecutive year that Texas graduates have exceeded the national average pass rate.

Only 7 of the 56 jurisdictions which use the NCLEX-RN® had more than 3,000 candidates test during this period. According to data provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., Texas had the highest pass rate among these large jurisdictions, with Ohio at 85.5% (3,707 candidates), California at 84% (5,246 candidates), Florida at 82.9% (3,689 candidates), Illinois at 82.1% (3,429 candidates), Pennsylvania at 81.1% (3,329 candidates), and New York at 80.4% (6,581 candidates). The number of Texas first-time testers was 4,947, compared to 5,118 in the 1998 exam year.

Congratulations are extended to the graduates and faculty of Laredo Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program, Navarro College ADN Program, North Harris-Montgomery Community College ADN Program (Tomball Campus), and the Victoria College ADN Program (Sequin Campus) for achieving pass rates of 100%. Thirty one programs or distance education initiatives of the 83 Texas programs and distance education initiatives/extended campuses had pass rates greater than 90% and 16 had pass rates between 86.8% and 90%.

The following table shows the pass rates for first-time test takers by type of program leading to initial licensure:

Type of Program	Pass Rate Average	Total # of Candidates Tested	Total # of Candidates Passed
Texas Diploma Programs	86.1%	122	105
Texas ADN Programs	86.7%	3019	2616
Texas BSN Programs	86.9%	1777	1544
Texas MSN Program	96.6%	29	28
Total Texas Programs	86.8%	4947	4293



Proposed and Adopted Rules

by Cheryl Rosipal

Chapter 220, Nurse Licensure Compact Adopted - Effective January 1, 2000 - The Board adopted Chapter 220, Nurse Licensure Compact to become effective January 1, 2000. The text was published in the November 19, 1999 *Texas Register*. The new rules were proposed pursuant to the new Nurse Licensure Compact. The Compact creates a shared information system which allows party states to exchange and track information on nurse regulation, ongoing investigations, and disciplinary actions. The new rules were developed through a cooperative effort between the compact party state administrators so that uniform rules could be proposed in each party state.

Chapter 211, General Provisions Adopted - The Board adopted Chapter 211, General Provisions. The rules were published in the October 8, 1999 *Texas Register*.

Chapter 221, Advanced Practice Nurses - Adopted on an Emergency Basis - The Board adopted, on an emergency basis, new Chapter 221 concerning Advanced Practice Nurses. The emergency adopted rules were published in the November 19, 1999 *Texas Register*. The Board met on October 28-29, 1999 and approved repeal of Chapter 221 and adoption of new Chapter 221 which establishes minimum standards for the provision of anesthesia services in outpatient settings by certified registered nurses anesthetists (CRNAs). Most of Chapter 221 remains unchanged, but the repeal and re-adoption of the entire chapter is based on a renumbering scheme which resulted from the proposed placement of new additions. These rules became effective November 28, 1999.

New Certification Exam Approved for CNSs in Acute Care or Critical Care

At the October 1999 meeting, the Board voted to approve the American Association of Critical Care Nurses/AACN Certification Corporation CCNS certification process and examination as a national certification recognized by the Board for the purposes of certifying clinical nurse specialists in acute care or critical care. As of October 28, 1999, registered nurses whose master's degrees prepared them for the role of clinical nurse specialists who function in acute care or critical care settings may present proof of certification by AACN Certification Corporation at the CCNS level when applying for initial authorization for advanced practice [Rule 221.4(b)]. New graduates with appropriate educational preparation may also submit evidence of registration for the first available CCNS examination when applying for temporary authorization to practice as Graduate Clinical Nurse Specialists in Acute Care or Graduate Clinical Nurse Specialists in Critical Care [Rule 221.7].

Prior to the October meeting, applicants for authorization in this role and specialty areas were required to be certified as Clinical Specialists in Medical-Surgical Nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center/ANCC, which included the requirement to pass the ANCC certification examination. This ANCC certification will continue to be accepted for applicants for initial authorization for advanced practice as CNSs in Acute Care or Critical Care who were certified by ANCC prior to October 28, 1999. Likewise, CNSs who are authorized by the Board for advanced practice based upon ANCC certification may choose to continue to recertify as Clinical Specialists in Medical-Surgical Nursing as a requirement for maintaining authorization as an advanced practice nurse [Rule 221.8 (a)(1)].

During a transition period of October 28, 1999 through December 31, 2001, proof of either certification by AACN Certification Corporation at the CCNS level or ANCC certification as a Clinical Specialist in Medical-Surgical Nursing will be accepted by the Board from applicants for initial authorization who previously have not been certified by a national certifying body. On and after January 1, 2002, the Board will no longer accept the ANCC certification as a Clinical Specialist in Medical-Surgical Nursing as the alternate certification process for Clinical Nurse Specialists in Acute Care or Clinical Nurse Specialists in Critical Care.

Potassium Chloride Administration Errors are Ongoing Problem for Nurses

Medication administration errors involving intravenous potassium chloride (KCl) are reported to the Enforcement Division of the Board of Nurse Examiners on a regular basis. Because of the serious potential for harm or actual injury to or death of patients when intravenous KCl is administered incorrectly, the nurses responsible for such medication administration errors receive disciplinary sanctions and stipulations on their licenses. Although the facts in each case may vary, the lethal potential of these errors is the common denominator. This practice problem is not unique to nurses in Texas, but is reported nationwide as an on-going problem of great concern.

Because KCl frequently is given in conjunction with furosemide (Lasix), the error may result when the nurse inadvertently picks up the syringe of potassium and pushes it intravenously thinking that he/she is pushing Lasix. KCl is sometimes also pushed when the nurse believes he/she is really using normal saline to flush the IV. If KCl is available in floor stock, the vials may be stored among other medications and inadvertently used. Despite the United States Pharmacopeial Convention's (USP) tighter and more obvious labeling and packaging standards, vials of potassium chloride may still be available in facilities without adequate labeling. Further, if physicians write incomplete orders for KCl by failing to specify the dilution they want in a particular intravenous fluid, the rushed nurse may simply forget that intravenous potassium chloride must always be diluted. Depending on the dose administered and the immediate presence of medical personnel to intervene, patients given KCl without proper dilution experience immediate symptoms from burning at the sight to ventricular tachycardia and/or fibrillation, cardiac arrest, brain death, and death.

Facilities have addressed this serious medication administration problem in a variety of ways, including removing all vials of KCl from floor stock and allowing only the pharmacy to distribute them or affixing neon labels warning of the necessity to dilute the drug. Despite a facility's handling of this issue, nurses must guard against such errors by always taking the time to apply the "Five Rights" of medication administration, remember the warnings associated with potassium chloride, and read all labels. In addition, bringing a systems problem such as unsafe storage of KCl vials to the attention of supervisors may protect patients from harm.

HIPDB Opens

In 1996, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act amended section 1128E of the Social Security Act to create the Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB). The purpose of this data bank is to combat fraud and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery. Federal and state government agencies and health plans are required to report and disclose certain final adverse actions taken against health care providers, suppliers, and practitioners.

The following actions will be required to be reported to HIPDB:

- ***Licensing and certification actions, including:***
 - ***Revocation, reprimand, suspension (including length), censure, and probation***
 - ***Any other loss of license, or right to apply for, or renew a license of the provider, supplier or practitioner, whether by voluntary surrender, non-renewability or otherwise***
 - ***Any other negative action or finding by a Federal or State licensing and certification agency that is publicly available information***
- ***Health care delivery related civil judgements***
- ***Health care delivery related criminal convictions***
- ***Exclusions from participation in Federal or State health care programs***
- ***Other adjudicated actions or decisions***

HIPDB became operational in November 1999. The Board of Nurse Examiners is required to report final disciplinary actions on licenses of registered nurses. Those who can query the data bank include Federal and State government agencies; health plans, health care practitioners, providers, and suppliers (self-query); and researchers (for statistical data only).

Committee Updates

Advisory Committee on Education Appoints New Members

At their October 1999 meeting, the Board appointed one new member to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) and reappointed two members whose terms were expiring in January 2000. Ms. Cora Clay was appointed to represent the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners (BVNE). She replaced Joy Fleming, a founding member of the committee, who retired from the BVNE in August 1999. Annette Hallman was reappointed to represent Diploma Nursing Programs. Ms. Hallman is employed by Covenant School of Nursing in Lubbock where she is the Curriculum Coordinator. Kendra Slatton was reappointed to represent The Texas Organization of Nurse Executives. Ms. Slatton is employed by Hendrick Health System of Abilene where she is the Director of Education. The next ACE meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2000 at the William Hobby Building, Tower 2, Room 225, Austin, Texas.

Nursing Jurisprudence Pilot Test Administered In November 1999

The Jurisprudence Pilot Examination was administered to 1076 graduating students during November. The students were drawn from 32 professional nursing programs who participated in the test. Exit interviews were conducted by the Test Development Team with students at two nursing programs.

The pilot project is a result of Senate Bill 617, enacted in 1997. The purpose for this phase of the pilot project is to study the reliability and validity of a jurisprudence examination as a mechanism to ensure minimal understanding of those laws and regulations necessary for the nurse beginning practice in Texas. The reason for student participation in the pilot test is not to ascertain if an individual has reached a certain passing score but rather to determine if the test questions are valid and reliable in order to establish legal defensibility of the test.

The Board extends appreciation to all participants. To the students who tested in November, thank you for your assistance in determining the validity and reliability of the examination. To the test administrators, thank you for your oversight of the test administration and test security. The Board, the Laws & Regulations Advisory Committee, and the Test Development Pilot Project Team thoroughly appreciate the response from professional nursing programs who volunteered to participate.

Sue McGee, MSN, RN, Joins BNE to Represent ADN Programs



Sue McGee, MSN, RN

Name:	Sue McGee, MSN, RN
Current Position:	Nursing Division Chairman, Associate Degree Nursing Program, Amarillo College
Clinical Expertise:	Pediatric Nursing. Past positions include: Staff & Charge Nurse in acute care settings; Hospital Nurse Educator; Diploma Nursing School Instructor; Vocational Nursing Instructor; Missionary to Mauritius, Indian Ocean; Associate Degree Nursing Educator
Educational Background:	Diploma in Nursing - Shannon Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, San Angelo; BSN - West Texas State University, Canyon; MSN - University of Texas at Austin
Professional Affiliations:	American Nurses Association; Texas Junior College Teachers Association; National Organization for the Advancement of Associate Degree Nursing; Sigma Theta Tau, Delta Delta Chapter; Harrington Supportive Care Consortium; American Association of University Women; National Council of Instructional Administrators; Texas Council of Nursing Deans and Directors; Community Health Issues Committee, Amarillo Area Foundation
Family:	Husband & two children

What do you see as the most important issues affecting the regulation of professional nursing?

I believe maintaining and developing an effective, efficient framework is the underlying factor in the regulation of professional nursing. Professional nurses are expected to provide safe, effective, ethical, professional care in an increasingly complex health care delivery system. Increased demands for "state of the art" clinical practice, advanced biotechnology, new treatment modalities, and expanded roles for clinical practice will require continuing educational opportunities and increased clinical proficiency skills of the practicing nurse. Predictions for a potential nurse shortage will challenge all of us to maintain a model for professional nursing. These factors will also challenge the role of educational programs to provide adequate entry-level practitioners and advanced practitioners prepared to safely practice professional nursing in a complex, ever changing health care system.

Please describe your perception of how the RN fits into the whole health-care community.

I believe that RNs are a vital link to healthy communities. Evolving health care opportunities are moving out of the acute care settings into the community. These are continuing to be developed and staffed by professional nurses. Nurses are also community leaders in providing preventive care. In addition to their professional role in the health care setting, nurses can be role models, advocates, and change agents as they become leaders within that community. I believe this is our most under-utilized resource in professional nursing.

In your experience, how has professional nursing changed over the years?

Technology! I used to sharpen and sterilize my own needles.....now I teach students to use retractable, disposal needles! In all areas, biotechnology advances have impacted nursing. These advances certainly expanded treatment modalities but have not decreased the demands of the skills and knowledge required of the professional nurse. Increased scientific research in nursing and medicine raised the expectations for competencies and knowledge base required by the beginning nurse practitioner. Appropriate application and recognition of the limitations of biotechnology to complement the human skills of nursing has been and will continue to be a challenge for professional nursing.

How do you see the role of the RN changing as we enter the new millennium? .

Health care is changing and becoming more complex almost constantly. The professional nurse will be expected to provide safe and effective care utilizing all the technology and scientific knowledge available. The constantly changing health care arena with increased regulations and controls will challenge nurses to be able to respond and practice safely and effectively. Nurses will be more accountable for their knowledge and clinical practice. Nursing practice will cross state lines and utilize all types of technology to provide care, including telemedicine and web-site case management. I hope that nurses will continue to develop and expand their vision by becoming the leaders and collaborators for health care reforms and legislative changes of the new millennium.

How do you feel about multi-state regulation and the prospect of one RN license to practice in all 50 states?

The Board and staff are to be commended for their foresight and collaboration leading to Texas being one of the first compact states for multi-state licensure. I am looking forward to participating in its future development.

Linda Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP to Represent APN Education for BNE

Name:	Linda Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
Current Position:	Associate Professor & Coordinator, Post-Master's Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Program, UTMB; 1998 - Present
Past Positions:	Director, Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program, UTMB; 1985 - 1998
Educational Background:	BS – Alfred University, Alfred NY MS – University of Rochester, Rochester NY FNP – State University of NY, Binghamton PhD – University of Texas at Austin
Professional Affiliations:	Texas Nurses Association, Texas Nurse Practitioners, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Family:	Husband & two children



Linda Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP

What goals do you have for yourself while serving as a member of the Board of Nurse Examiners?

I hope to increase my working knowledge of the regulation of professional nursing so that I can function as an informed and thoughtful Board member. In particular, I hope I can help to promote safe practice and protect the public through the reasonable regulation of educational programs in the state. In addition, I hope I can provide competent leadership in the regulation of advanced practice through work with the Advanced Practice Advisory Committee of the Board.

How do you feel about multi-state regulation and the prospect of one RN license to practice in all 50 states?

I support multi-state regulation, as I believe it is an appropriate response to the use of technology in health care and to a very mobile society. I believe it will protect the public by making it easier to monitor the practice of RNs across states.

What do you see as the most important issues affecting the regulation of professional nursing?

I believe multi-state licensure and its accompanying complexities will be a challenge to regulatory boards. This new relationship between states will require education of the boards, the profession, and the public. In the end, I think it will provide better protection for the public. I also believe telehealth and the use of technology will be a major shift in the provision of health care and education. It will create a need for new or modified regulations in both education and practice. Finally, I think the impact of the nursing shortage on the safe practice of nursing will be a major issue faced by regulatory boards in the near future.

Please describe your perception of how the RN fits into the whole health-care community.

My personal view has always been that nursing is unique among health care professions as opportunities exist to practice in almost any area of health care. These opportunities allow nurses to relate to patients and other colleagues in a variety of roles and settings. It seems there is no one place in health care that is inappropriate to nursing or that couldn't benefit from the presence of an RN.

In your experience, how has professional nursing changed over the years?

In my experience, the roles for nurses have expanded and the autonomy of nurses has increased in all areas of practice, especially in advanced practice. I have been especially pleased to see the strides that nurses have made in advanced practice. I believe these gains benefit all nurses. I also think that nurses have also rediscovered the community and the important role that nurses can play in promoting the health of the community. In addition, I believe that the managed care environment has challenged nursing most recently. In some areas it has interfered with the relationship between patients and nurses and has the potential to do this in many areas of practice.

How can RNs better serve the people of Texas?

I think RNs can better serve the people of Texas by speaking out when the quality of patient care is threatened by situations such as a shortage of nurses or infringement on the nursing role by health care systems. I think RNs can also serve the people of Texas by speaking with a united voice that promotes the contributions and value of nurses to the health of the public.



Practice Question and Answer

by Cara S. Mueller, MSN, RN



Q. How does the Board view or classify RN First Assistants (RNFAs)? Are there any particular professional nursing laws or rules regulating RNFAs?

A. In January of 1995, the Board determined that serving as a first assistant in surgery is within the scope of professional nursing practice and that RNs who practice in such a role should meet the requirements outlined in the Association of Operating Room Nurses' (AORN) position statement. This position statement, revised in March 1993, recognized RNs performing as first assistants as within the scope of perioperative nursing. AORN has defined the qualifications and educational preparation required for RNFAs. It is not necessary to notify the Board of this specialization. Although inquiry about specialization is requested on license renewal and other forms, it is for statistical purposes only.

To obtain a copy of the AORN position statement on RN First assistants, you may contact them at:

AORN, Inc.
2170 South Parker Rd, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80231-5711
ph: (800) 755-2676
www.aorn.org

Q. Does the Board issue standards on advanced directives or Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) orders?

A. The Board does not specifically address advanced directives or DNR orders; however, several Standards of Professional Nursing apply to RNs involved in end-of-life decisions. For example, §217.11(1) states that "the RN shall...know and conform to...all federal, state, or local laws, rules or regulations affecting the RN's current area of practice." These laws and regulations include the *Health and Safety Code*, specifically Chapter 672, the *Natural Death Act*, and Chapter 674, *Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate* laws. Also, Texas Department of Health's rule, 25 TAC §157.25 implements the *Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate* law. Rule 217.11(21) points out that RNs "collaborate with the client, members of the health care team and, when appropriate, the client's significant other(s) in the interest of the client's health care." When making decisions about end-of-life care, a team approach is required in order to meet the client's desires to the best of our ability. Keep in mind that SB 1260 became effective September 1, 1999. This bill was created to consolidate the previously mentioned acts in an effort to have them work in a collective manner and to address operational problems. For additional information, an excellent resource was recently published by the Educational Institute on Aging, "New Clarity for End-of-Life Decision-Making" by Jennifer Rangel. It appeared in the Fall 1999 issue of the *Texas Journal on Aging* and can be ordered by calling (512) 467-2242. Also, a series of articles on end-of-life care have been published in *Texas Nursing* by Ferne C. Kyba, PhD, RN. To order this reference, call (800) TNA-2022.

Q. What are the consequences of answering questions on the initial application for licensure and/or licensure renewal form dishonestly?

A. The BNE asks applicants and RNs renewing their licenses questions regarding conviction of a felony or misdemeanor, mental illness, and alcohol/drug use. While submitting false statements to a government agency is prohibited by the BNE's Rule 217.12(22) and the Texas Penal Code, sec. 37.10, it can also be detrimental to your license. A dishonest answer on an application for licensure can result in fines as well as in discipline against a nurse's license, such as being issued a warning or a reprimand. Dishonest answers hurt the RN's credibility and are viewed as a strike against his or her good professional character.

Answering "yes" or inability to attest to the truth of statements regarding the aforementioned issues does not mean that the Board is going to automatically revoke a license or deny an application for licensure. The RN or examination candidate will be required to explain his or her situation and the BNE will ensure that a thorough and fair investigation will be conducted. The final action the BNE takes in this matter depends on several factors, such as, the severity of the issue, classification of the offense, age of the person when the offense or issue took place, treatment or rehabilitation, and mitigating circumstances surrounding the issue. Plain and simple, as a professional nurse, it is expected that you answer renewal and application questions truthfully.



EDUCATION REPORT

By Anne Garrett, PhD, RN



October 1999 Board Actions

Application for Initial Accreditation:

Granted Initial Accreditation to the University of Texas at El Paso Post-Master's Adult Health Nurse Practitioner Program with a proposed admission date of January 2000.

Based on review of the survey visit report, issued commendations, recommendations, & requirements to be met:

Lamar State College-Orange LVN to ADN Nursing Program

Based on review of the survey visit report, continued initial accreditation with commendations, recommendations, and requirements to be met:

Texas A & M International University, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

Based on the 1999 Annual Report and survey visit continued initial accreditation with commendations, recommendations, and requirements to be met:

St. Philip's College LVN-to-ADN Nursing Program

Petition for Waiver of Qualifications for Program Director:

Approved Ms. Frannie Rettig to serve as acting director/interim coordinator at St. Philip's College LVN-to-ADN Nursing Program

Based on the survey visit, changed the accreditation status from warning to full with commendations, recommendations, and requirements to be met:

Prairie View A & M University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

Based on the survey visit continued initial accreditation status with warning and recommendations & requirements to be met:

Prairie View A & M University Family Nurse Practitioner Program

Program Closure:

Approved the plan for closure of the University of Texas-Pan American Associate Degree Nursing Program effective August 31, 2000.

Nurse Participates in Development of Licensure Exam

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of the following nurse as a participant in the NCLEX-RN® development process: Beverly J. McCoy, RN, Item Reviewer. Ms. McCoy is employed by Memorial-Hermann Home Health where she specializes in mental health, home health, geriatrics, and case management.



APN Question and Answer



Q: I am a pediatric nurse practitioner who teaches in an associate degree nursing program. Can I count the hours that I spent teaching students in the pediatric clinical setting during the previous two years as my 400 hours of practice in my specialty? The nursing program where I work has made advanced practice nursing authorization a requirement for promotion and I do not have time to do clinical practice in addition to my teaching job.

A: Rule 221.8(a)(2), relating to Maintaining Authorization as an Advanced Practice Nurse, states "The registered professional nurse seeking to maintain authorization as an advanced practice nurse shall, in conjunction with RN license renewal...attest, on forms provided by the Board, to have a minimum of 400 hours of current practice within the preceding biennium." Because the Board believes that being engaged in current practice helps advanced practice nurses remain competent, it logically follows that the required 400 hours must be in the advanced role and specialty for which you have received authorization to practice

as an APN. In order for teaching hours to count as advanced practice you must be teaching in an advanced practice education program.

Although your employer, the nursing program, has made APN authorization a requirement of promotion, the Board does not require faculty members who teach in basic nursing education programs (diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate, or master's programs leading to initial licensure) to be APNs. Nursing faculty and administration are cautioned to carefully consider the merits of making APN authorization a requirement for either faculty appointment or promotion if there will be no opportunity for faculty members to practice in their advanced practice roles and specialties within the academic setting. Without some sort of faculty practice plan, faculty members who teach in basic nursing education programs will either have to "moonlight" as advanced practice nurses to maintain their practice hours or change their advanced practice nurse status to inactive when it is time to renew.

IMPOSTOR WARNING

If you have any knowledge or information regarding the employment practices of the following individuals, please contact the Board's Enforcement Division immediately, at (512) 305-6838.

**Kelly Michele Sutton,
aka: Kelly Michele Rollins**

Kelly Michele Sutton presented a copy of license and secured employment as a registered nurse with a home health agency in the San Antonio Area. Ms. Sutton worked for the company from March 8, 1999 through April 9, 1999. In April 1999, the supervisor started to suspect that Ms. Sutton was not a registered nurse and terminated her as a result of her poor nursing assessment abilities. The facility contacted the Board office to verify the license and they were informed that the number provided by Ms. Sutton belonged to someone else. The Board is pursuing legal action against Ms. Sutton through the Bexar County District Attorney's Office.



Elizabeth Frances Younts

Elizabeth Frances Younts secured employment as a registered nurse with a group of physicians in the Austin area. Ms. Younts worked in this office from August 1998 through January 1999. Ms. Younts presented a copy of an altered license to obtain employment and the number on the license was a valid number belonging to a RN. The facility discovered that Ms. Younts was not a registered nurse because a staff member reported that she was asking questions that a RN should know. They contacted the Board office to verify her social security number and date of birth which did not match the computer information maintained by the Board. Ms. Younts was confronted with their finding and she admitted to forging the license. The Board is pursuing legal action against Ms. Younts with the assistance of the Austin Police Department who may submit the case to the Travis County District Attorney's Office.



NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following registered nurses had disciplinary action taken against their licenses. If you would like to receive additional information regarding the disciplinary action which has been imposed, please send your request to the Board of Nurse Examiners, Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 430, Austin, Texas, 78767-0430.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>DATE OF ACTION</u>
Agbontaen, Efosa C.	532520	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Allen, Aquanetta Delores	593356	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Archimbaud, Claire Rae	450789	Warning	10/28/99
Azcona, Gina Concepcion Jimenez	621807	Warning with Stipulations	11/9/99
Beavers, Mildreth Elizabeth	553776	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Becker, John C.	618891	Revoke	10/28/99
Behrendt, Michele Laird	605315	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Bolotaulo, Iris Cordero	588043	Remedial Education & Fine	10/29/99
Bowen, John L.	508805	Revoke	10/28/99
Broussard, Susan Lynn	556734	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Brown, Anette Mari	606055	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>DATE OF ACTION</u>
Brown, Margaret M. O.	421575	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Calderilla, Terri Lee	593898	Reprimand with Stipulations	11/9/99
Cecala-Combescure, Jeanne A.	429361	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Christian, Kimary Ann	618833	Revoke	10/28/99
Cooper, Donna Kay	594136	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Cornell, Dorothy K.	509571	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Davis, Mary Beth	558542	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Davis, Mary Lynn	623343	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Day, Rebecca Sue	237145	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Doerr, Michael Francis	567584	Warning with Stipulations	11/9/99
Dudenhefer, Candis L.	500185	Revoke	10/28/99
Dupree, Thomas	620380	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Fisher, Keith W.	500220	Revoke	10/28/99
Francis, Rebecca D.	630642	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Gibour, Lawrence	588953	Remedial Education & Fine	10/29/99
Hanratty, Carin Gale	460014	Reprimand with Stipulations	11/9/99
Harp, Frances L. F.	214141	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Harris, Ernestine	537372	Reprimand with Stipulations	11/9/99
Harrison, Nancy Ruth	562832	Remedial Education	9/23/99
Harrison, Renee Lynn	540452	Remedial Education	10/4/99
Hebert, Janet Ann	226801	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Hernandez, Alva Norma	572198	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Hillard, Dana Carol	595356	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Hollified, Stacye Michelle	656199	Warning with Stipulations	11/9/99
Huevos, Fe Cangco	615846	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Iverson, Caryn Trinette	607024	Suspend/Probate	10/28/99
Jacob, Sosamma Mathai	453597	Revoke	10/28/99
Janota, Ruby	636491	Revoke	10/28/99
Javier, Josephine Gatan	567939	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Johnson, Ruby Jewell	558883	Fine & Remedial Education	10/7/99
Johnston, Jackie Lynn	597084	Revoke	10/28/99
Keller, Angela D.	630416	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Kent, Rebecca Lynn	547758	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
King, Betty Joan	253297	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
King, Kimberly Ann	595470	Revoke	10/28/99
Klein, Jacqueline Lee	636107	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Kuta, Betty M.	629570	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Latino, Jackie Lynn	250646	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Lee, Karen L.	522139	Revoke	10/28/99
Leonard (Sedlacheck), Rhonda Lynn	583302	Remedial Education	9/21/99
Levan, Judith Margaret	528031	Revoke	10/28/99
Menard, Carla Alyce	448456	Reprimand with Stipulations	11/9/99
Miller, Edith L.	459813	Reprimand with Stipulations	11/9/99
Miller, Kim Elizabeth	595985	Revoke	10/28/99
Moore, Tracy L.	577320	Revoke	10/28/99
Neblett, Sandra Elaine	502472	Revoke	10/28/99
Ngene, John Okeke	610855	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99

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DISCIPLINARY ACTION

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>DATE OF ACTION</u>
Oberlender, Sandra L.	619252	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Onukwu, Ngozi N.	598874	Enforced Suspension	10/28/99
Palms, Sosamma	429911	Warning with Stipulations	11/9/99
Palos, Terri Gail	241184	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Perez, Stacey	632961	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Powell, Kathryn Michelle	578206	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Preston, Stephanie A.	534438	Revoke	10/28/99
Quillin, Rhonda Lee	238758	Revoke	10/28/99
Renner, Helen Laine	601907	Remedial Education & Fine	10/28/99
Richard Jr., Charles Anthony	551798	Revoke	10/28/99
Richardson, Glen G.	619772	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Rosics, Robert Andrew	606959	Revoke	10/28/99
Row, Brenda J.	526691	Remedial Education	10/26/99
Sherwood-Gonzalez, Kristy Lynn	573603	Revoke	10/28/99
Silverio, Mario Millan	638873	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Slater, Linda L.	588076	Revoke	10/28/99
Smith, Karl	621510	Warning with Stipulations	11/9/99
Smith, Patricia Ann	568564	Warning with Stipulations	11/9/99
Spence, Cindy Lee	564343	Revoke	10/28/99
Stanley, Robert Harvey	551912	Revoke	10/28/99
Torres, Lydia	555896	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Valdez, Erma Saavedra	636302	Revoke	10/28/99
Valero, Peggy Jean	556932	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Villarreal, Maricela	641383	Reprimand with Stipulations	11/9/99
Vinson, Michele R.	631047	Warning with Stipulations	11/9/99
Voorhies, Georgia Lea	584939	Remedial Education	11/8/99
Waggoner, Darlene Carolyn	557416	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Walker, Thomas Alvin	541822	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
West, Cherry Annise	650271	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/28/99
Whaley, Cynara Von	541867	Remedial Education & Fine	10/28/99
White, Diane Haggard	597465	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Wilson, Ava Debra	546925	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Wilson, Kevin Alexander	536325	Revoke	10/28/99
Young, Virginia Lee	234209	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99
Zhang, Shudan	615923	Warning with Stipulations	10/28/99

VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

The following individuals have voluntarily surrendered their license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DATE OF SURRENDER</u>
Adams, Dawn Desiree	561592	October 1, 1999
Bentle, Paul Garrett	630503	September 29, 1999
Clinton, Marilynn Frances	598746	November 15, 1999
Ebe, Deirdre Dawn	629145	September 22, 1999
Goodson, Kerry Page	562692	October 20, 1999
Graham Warner, Marcella	632068	September 29, 1999

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VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>DATE OF SURRENDER</u>
Jenkins, James Randall	567945	October 6, 1999
Lunsford, Martha Regina	239447	December 1, 1999
Maloof, Steven Edmund	629594	October 8, 1999
McConnell, Timothy Harold	234902	November 4, 1999
McLendon, Cindy L.	248914	November 10, 1999
Norris, James	634966	October 20, 1999
Nowak, Mary B.	526348	November 4, 1999
Nunziato, Jane	460151	September 15, 1999
Primm, Kathy Lynn	241953	October 22, 1999
Sherman, Randy Michael	573601	December 2, 1999
Torbert, Darrell Wayne	584809	November 16, 1999
Wallace, Douglas E.	618669	November 10, 1999

Insufficient Funds

As of December 14, 1999, the following nurses appear on the records of the Board of Nurse Examiners as debits for failure to respond to notices of returned checks. Should any of these nurses be in your employ or seek employment with your agency/institution, please contact the Board's office. If any of these nurses are practicing in Texas as a registered nurse, they may be in violation of the Nursing Practice Act and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE #</u>
Allen, Julie Ann	623827	Jenkins, Victor I	517158
Asble, Alex Walter	564983	Kirk, Sandra Andrews	521416
Bargas, Virginia	257121	Kishbaugh, Shari Elizabeth	575583
Barr, Lori Anne	537652	Kuntz, Eileen Marie	514331
Buol, Kolleen Kay	516233	Kurylo, Kim Diane	580995
Conti, Angela Rose	552231	Masters, Mary Jane	550218
Cotterell, Jennifer Sandra	516426	Meyers, Stephanie	655919
De John, Ida C Caperna	424176	Milam, Vicki Jeannette	639563
Dennis, Patricia Ann	503975	Mitchell, Sandra	565160
Dever, Lorraine Marie	579468	Nims, Teresa Masadie	565233
Dillon, Patricia	560309	Olivier, Marie Claudia	514361
Falkner, Barbara Marie	587013	Pangilinan, Julie	445792
Farra, Diane Rae	560781	Payne, Traci Lee	569734
Felkins, Bettye Lisa	557452	Rae, Lisbeth Sue	538984
Filler, Marcia Ann	553220	Rosko, Lisa Marie	538707
Fryer, Renee Marie	578735	Sanderson, Brenda Mary	538111
Glisson, James M	239549	Severtson, Marianne Maples	416386
Gunnels, Lorrie Ann V	623930	Sloane, Gail Theresa	550406
Guthrie, Kelly R	547982	Stringer, Jacqueline	TL 73896
Hatter, Deanne Marie	568968	Vasquez, Emerald J D	207588
Hess, Cathy Christine	628267	Wilson, Vicki L	220897
Howard, Dorothy	613705	Yoho, Amy Joyce	599381
Howell, Sharon	459387		

VOLUNTEER FOR A PEER

You can make a difference. "TPAPN saved my life." Become a part of nurses helping nurses by calling the Texas Peer Assistance Program for nurses at **1-800-288-5528**.

BNE HELPFUL NUMBERS

MAIN NUMBER(512) 305-7400

- 24 Hour Access
- License Verification
- General Information

ACCOUNTING SERVICES.....(512) 305-6853

- Returned checks
- Refunds
- Debits

LICENSING.....(512) 305-6809

- Renewals
- Endorsement/Reciprocity
- Continuing Education for RNs

SALES OF LISTS.....(512) 305-6848

- Computerized RN mailing lists or labels
- Publications

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION...(512) 305-6842

WEB Address.....www.bne.state.tx.us

- Refer e-mail inquiries to:
webmaster@mail.bne.state.tx.us

ENFORCEMENT.....(512) 305-6838

- Complaint and disciplinary action inquiries
- Violations of NPA rules and regulations
- Monitoring of disciplined RNs

ADVANCED PRACTICE.....(512) 305-6843

- APN application and Prescriptive Authority procedures
- Application Requests.....(512) 305-6867
(Voice Box Only)

- Initial Authorization to Practice
- Prescriptive Authority

EDUCATION & EXAM.....(512) 305-6818

- RN/APN nursing programs
- Distance Education Initiatives
- NCLEX-RN applications
- Graduate Nurse permits
- Declaratory orders

NURSING PRACTICE.....(512) 305-6844

- Nursing practice issues
- Legislation
- Workshop Information

Change of Address

Are you moving? Have you already moved? Let us know within ten days of the move.

Last Name: _____
First Name: _____
Middle Name: _____
SSN: _____ / _____ / _____
RN# _____
Today's Date: _____

Old Address:

Address _____

 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

New Address:

Address _____

 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

Mail to:

Board of Nurse Examiners
 P.O. Box 430
 Austin, TX 78767-0430

BNE EVENTS

Board Meeting Schedule - 2000

January 20-21, in Temple
April 13-14
July 20-21
October 12-13

Workshop Update

The first workshop of the new year will be held in Temple on January 19, 2000, at the Mayborn Convention Center. Three more "Focus on Nursing Practice" workshops are scheduled for February and March, 2000.

February 16 - Laredo
February 17 - McAllen
March 9 - Victoria

Future workshops will also be held in Tyler, Fort Worth, and Wichita Falls. Brochures and registration forms will be available and pre-registration will be accepted **six weeks** prior to the workshop. Preregistration is always encouraged because space is limited. Payment *must* accompany the registration form, so registration cannot be taken over the phone, e-mail, or fax. If you do not receive a brochure and registration form by six weeks prior to the workshop, you may download one from our website or request one by contacting us. Our phone number for workshop information is (512) 305-6844 and e-mail address is *schwartz@mail.bne.state.tx.us*.

HPC Offers Toll-Free Number for Complaint Forms

The Health Professions Council has a toll-free phone number for obtaining complaint forms to report inappropriate actions by Texas-licensed health professionals including Physicians, Physician Assistants, Therapists, RNs, and LVNs. That number is: **1-800-821-3205**.

Tracking MSR Via the National Council

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), Inc., offers current, user-friendly information concerning the status of legislation introduced in different states to enact the **Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact**. This information is offered on the National Council Web site located at www.ncsbn.org/files/mutual/billstatus.asp.

Currently Arkansas, Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, and Utah have passed legislation enacting the compact. Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin have introduced bills to enact the Compact. NCSBN's web site includes the bill number, status, date of last action, effective date, and a link to the bill text for each state.

If you are interested in more information about implementation of the Nurse Licensure Compact in Texas which is effective January 1, 2000, please refer to the BNE Web site located at www.bne.state.tx.us. The October 1999 issue of *RN Update* (page 1) included an article describing how mutual recognition works and how it will be implemented for Texas nurses.

Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses-TPAPN

If you have concerns regarding a nursing colleague's practice related to chemical dependency or mental illness, call 1-800-288-5528 to speak to a nurse case manager. Your call is confidential.

TPAPN conducts workshops on how the peer assistance program works for interested health care professionals. If you would like to learn more about the program, contact our office to sign up for one of our workshops.

2000 Workshop Schedule for Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses—TPAPN:

January 28, 2000 - San Antonio
February 11, 2000 - Houston
March 24, 2000 - Tyler
May 19, 2000 - Dallas
June 9, 2000 - Abilene

For more information, please call us at 1-800-288-5528.



The purpose of the *RN Update* is to disseminate information to registered nurses licensed by the State of Texas, their employers, health care providers, and the public concerning laws and regulations established by the Board of Nurse Examiners related to the safe and legal practice of professional nursing. The *RN Update* provides information on current issues and trends in nursing regulation, status of nursing education programs, information regarding licensure and nursing practice, and disciplinary action taken against licensees who violate the Nursing Practice Act.

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Office Hours and Location

The Office of the Board of Nurse Examiners is located in The William P. Hobby Building, located at the corner of 4th and Guadalupe in downtown Austin. The mailing address is P.O. Box 430, Austin, Texas 78767-0430. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for designated holidays.

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Board of Nurse Examiners
for the State of Texas
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