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Oklahoma Board of Nursing Transitions to Less-Paper, Verifiable Licensure

Effective December 1, 2017, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing no longer prints traditional license cards. A process is in place in which the licensee may access the Board of Nursing website, click on License Verification, and after submitting name and licensure level, a “view” box appears next to the licensee’s name. After clicking on the “view” box, and entering an individual personal identification number, the licensee may print a paper license card to include the licensee’s name, level of licensure, license number and links to both the Board of Nursing verification site and Nursys national license database, where the current status of the license can be verified.

Cause for moving to a less-paper, verifiable system is multi-faceted. With increased reports of lost or stolen license cards, and cards never received in the mail, the new system reduces the risk of fraud and impersonation of Oklahoma-licensed nurses. Implementation of the new system enhances employer ability to verify current license status of licensed nurses employed and/or prospective employees, by going to a primary source to verify licensure. Employers may verify licensure through the Board of Nursing website at <https://apps.ok.gov/nursing/verify/index.php> or Nursys at <https://www.nursys.com/LQC/QCTerms.aspx>. In addition, the less-paper, verifiable system reduces cost to licensees for duplicating misplaced or lost license cards. Currently, fifty-three percent of all state boards of nursing use paperless initial license while sixty-seven percent of all states have paperless licensure renewal.

Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact

The enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) was implemented on January 19, 2018. The Oklahoma Board of Nursing, having made the eNLC multistate applications available online since January 5, 2018, has received through March 26, 2018, 1,613 multistate licensure for existing active Oklahoma licensee applications, 142 multistate licensure by endorsement applications and 649 multistate licensure by examination applications. Completed multistate licensee applications for existing active Oklahoma licensees have an average processing time of 1.5 days. For Oklahoma licensees with questions regarding multistate licensure, Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact Frequently Asked Questions for Oklahoma Nursing Licensees can be accessed on the agency website at <http://nursing.ok.gov/eNLCFAQsOKlicensee.pdf>. Current eNLC information can be accessed on the Board of Nursing website at <http://nursing.ok.gov/enlc.html>.

Nursys e-Notify Resources Notification

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing provides the Nursys e-Notify system resources to both licensed nurses and employers of licensed nurses. Nursys e-Notify is an innovative national nurse licensure notification system that provides subscribed employers of licensed nurses real-time notifications, alerting the subscribed party when changes such as license status, license expiration, pending license renewals and public disciplinary action are made to a nurse’s license record. Nursys e-Notify is a FREE, convenient way for nurses to receive license expiration reminders and status updates of their nursing license, and to track license verifications for endorsement. **Effective November 1, 2017**, licensed nurses and employers of licensed nurses may subscribe to the service FREE of charge at <https://www.nursys.com/EN/ENDefault.aspx>.

Reduce Opioid Overdose

Our nation is facing an opioid epidemic. Combating prescription drug abuse is a priority in our state. The Oklahoma Prescription Drug Planning Workgroup released a state plan to reduce opioid-related overdose deaths. As a participating member of the workgroup, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing supports the state plan.

In an effort to provide education and resources for Oklahoma nurses, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing has enhanced the website to help nurses acquire knowledge concerning addiction, opioid abuse, drug disposal, screening tools and treatment. The state plan to reduce opioid-related overdose deaths and the seven action areas included in the plan can be viewed on the website. Additional information is located under each action area on the website.

Information to Reduce Opioid Overdose can be found at <http://nursing.ok.gov> or <http://nursing.ok.gov/opioid.html>.

Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

Currently, the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act [P.L. 114-198, Sec.303] allows for Certified Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to provide medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. Clinical Nurse Specialists and Certified Nurse Midwives are not addressed in the federal law at this time.

The Exclusionary Formulary has been revised to allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurse-Certified Nurse Practitioners (APRN-CNPs) with prescriptive authority, DEA recognition, waiver training and supervised by a qualifying physician to prescribe Buprenorphine with Naloxone. The Exclusionary Formulary can be viewed at <http://nursing.ok.gov/prac-exclusfrm.pdf>

Education for Certified Nurse Practitioners is offered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Interested and appropriately Certified Nurse Practitioners may register. Click on the link below for more information.
<https://www.samhsa.gov/programs-campaigns/medication-assisted-treatment/training-materials-resources/qualify-np-pa-waivers>

Online Applications

All nursing licensure applications and applications for Advanced Unlicensed Assistants have been available online since 2009. Since this time, the Board has seen a marked improvement in processing times of applications and improved stakeholder satisfaction. The transition to online applications supports the "Go Green" direction of state government, contributes to efficiencies within the Board of Nursing, and promotes lower application processing times.

For those applicants who do not have personal access to a computer through home, work, school or a nearby library, computers are available for public use in the Board office. If an applicant cannot access an online application by any of these means, a paper copy may be requested by the individual applicant by submitting a written request for such to the Board office. A self-addressed, postage-paid (approximately \$1.06) 8 ½" x 11" envelope must accompany the written request for a paper copy of the application.

Recent Policy Revisions

The following policies have been reviewed/approved and are available for review by hyperlink provided.

Approved Policies/Guidelines during the November 2017 Board Meeting:

Refresher Course Policy, #P-17 available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/refresher.pdf>

Decision Making Model for Scope of Nursing Practice Decisions: Determining Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Scope of Practice, #P-10 available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/prac-decmak.pdf>

School Nurse Position Statement available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/schlnurse.pdf>

Approved Policies/Guidelines during the January 2018 Board Meeting:

Special Reports from Nursing Education Programs to the Board Guidelines, #E-06 available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/spec-rpts.pdf>

Simulated Patient Care Experiences (SPCE) for Registered and Practical Nursing Programs Guidelines, #E-11 available at <http://nursing.ok.gov/spcegl.pdf>

Routine Reminders and Links

Reminder for Change of Name

Licensees must provide certified evidence (a copy of marriage license or court action) regarding any change of name within 30 days of the change. To change your name, you must complete the Name Change Request form. The form is available on the Board of Nursing website at: <http://nursing.ok.gov/namechange.pdf>

Reminder for Change of Address

Have you had a change of address? If so, you **must** notify the Board office in writing within 30 days of the change. You may submit a signed and dated statement with your license number or Social Security number, your full name, and your new address. The change of address form can be accessed at <http://nursing.ok.gov/addresschgPSOR.pdf>

Notice to Licensees Submitting Online Renewals

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing online renewal system provides a convenient way for you to submit your renewal. However, it is essential that you protect the security of your online information. **Your PIN number, which is required for the renewal, should not be shared with anyone, not even with your spouse or support staff at your place of employment.** Your responsibility to renew your license **cannot** be delegated to another person. **You are the only person who can complete and submit the online renewal application!**

To access the online renewal: <https://pay.apps.ok.gov/nursing/renewal/index.php>

In preparing to submit your online renewal application, please visit the following link specific to Continuing Qualifications for License Renewal Guidelines: <http://nursing.ok.gov/cqlicenserenewal.pdf>

“This publication is issued by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing as authorized by the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act [59 O.S. § 567.1, et seq.] and is located at the following website: <http://nursing.ok.gov/pubs.html> This publication has been submitted in compliance with Section 3-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes.”

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