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### Welcome New Board Member, Marla Ellis!

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing welcomes new Board public member Marla Ellis! Marla is a certified public accountant (CPA) and the owner of Marla Ellis, CPA, PLLC, a tax preparation and filing, bookkeeping and accounting firm based in Cordell, Oklahoma. Marla graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, and later obtaining her CPA certification.

While in college, Marla was active in the Accounting Club, Phi Beta Lambda Professional Business Association, and Gamma Delta Kappa honor society; and was named to Who's Who in American Universities. Previously, Marla served on the Cordell Board of Education and on the SWOSU Wesley Foundation Board of Directors. Currently, Marla is active in her community as a member of the Cordell Chamber of Commerce and Cordell First United Methodist Church, where she has served in a number of leadership positions including a current term as Vice-Chair of the church's administrative board. Marla established her accounting firm in 1999, and is a member of the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants, previously serving as Treasurer of the Western Chapter.

Marla stated she is extremely honored to serve on the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. Welcome to the Board of Nursing, Marla!

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### Oklahoma Enacts Enhanced Nurse License Compact (NLC)

Oklahoma has become one of the first states to enact the enhanced NLC, joining Florida, Idaho, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming as a member. The House Bill 2482 was signed by Gov. Mary Fallin on April 26, 2016.

Allowing nurses to have mobility across state borders, the enhanced NLC increases access to care while maintaining public protection. The enhanced NLC, which is an updated version of the current NLC, allows for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) to have one multistate license, with the ability to practice in both their home state and other NLC states. The enhanced NLC will come into effect the sooner of 26 states passing the enhanced NLC legislation or Dec. 31, 2018. All states, including those participating in the existing NLC, must introduce legislation in the coming years to enter into the enhanced NLC.

Susan Jones, PhD, APRN-CNS, Oklahoma Board of Nursing President notes, "Participation in multistate licensure is something that Oklahoma nurses have been asking about for quite some time, and with the language in the enhanced compact they will have the opportunity. It is exciting to have been able to work with the Oklahoma Board of Nursing staff and leadership and our state legislature to ensure that the safety needs of patients and the practice flexibility of nurses will be soon be available in Oklahoma."

Patient safety being of paramount importance led to the addition of new features found in the provisions of the legislation of the enhanced NLC. Licensing standards are aligned in enhanced NLC states so all nurses applying for a multistate license are required to meet the same standards, which include a federal and state criminal background check that will be conducted for all applicants applying for multistate licensure.

Rep. Pat Ownbey commented, "This legislation is a giant step forward for Oklahoma's health care system. The new law will allow nurses practicing in and out of our state the flexibility in moving to where the greatest health needs exist while keeping patient safety intact. I'm certainly proud to be a part of this effort."

The enhanced NLC enables nurses to provide telehealth nursing services to patients located across the country without having to obtain additional licenses. In the event of a disaster, nurses from multiple states can easily respond to supply vital services. Additionally, almost every nurse, including primary care nurses, case managers, transport nurses, school and hospice nurses, among many others, needs to routinely cross state boundaries to provide the public with access to nursing services, and a multistate license facilitates this process.

"It is great to play a part in moving health care forward in Oklahoma," said Sen. Frank Simpson. "This legislation will give nurses across Oklahoma more opportunities to cross borders without barriers. As a senator from a border district, this provides our hospitals the ability to be more competitive in the nursing field."

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## Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

Opioid misuse, diversion, and overdose are major public health problems in the United States. Patients seeking pain relief are commonly seen in family practice settings. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) may face clinical situations in which a decision is needed regarding pain management. *The APRN with prescriptive authority who prescribes Schedule III-IV drugs will comply with state and Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) requirements prior to prescribing controlled substances. No more than a 30-day supply for Schedule III-V drugs shall be prescribed by the APRN with prescriptive authority* [OAC 485:10-16-5(c)].

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain* provides recommendations to primary healthcare providers about the appropriate prescribing of opioid pain medication to improve pain management and patient safety.

For more information you may view the following:

CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1er.htm>

The 12 recommendations at:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guidelines\\_factsheet-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guidelines_factsheet-a.pdf)

CDC Resources at: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/resources.html>

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## Prescriptive Authority Renewal Reminder

As Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) renew APRN licensure concurrently with the two-year licensure renewal for Registered Nurses in 2016, the following serves as a reminder of requirements for those APRNs **renewing Prescriptive Authority**.

The application for renewal of prescriptive authority for APRN Certified Nurse Practitioners, APRN Certified Nurse Midwives and APRN Clinical Nurse Specialists shall:

1. Be concurrent with the two-year RN and APRN licensure renewal;
2. Include:

(A) A completed application containing such information as the Board may prescribe and required fee;

(B) Verify, on the renewal application, completion of a minimum of fifteen (15) contact hours, or one academic credit hour of education, or the equivalent, in pharmacotherapeutics, clinical application and use of pharmacological agents in the prevention of illness, and in the restoration and maintenance of health, in a program beyond basic registered nurse preparation, approved by the Board, within the two-year period immediately preceding the effective date of application for renewal of prescriptive authority, which is applicable to the scope of practice and specialty certification. This verification does not apply to individuals renewing within twenty-four (24) months of initial prescriptive authority approval.

NOTE: If selected for audit, the licensee must submit documentation evidencing the contact hours or academic credit hour noted on the renewal application.

(C) A written statement signed by the physician supervising prescriptive authority that includes a method of assuring availability of the supervising physician through direct contact, telecommunications or other appropriate electronic means for consultation, assistance with the medical emergencies, or patient referral. Applicants for renewal who have submitted a written statement signed by the physician supervising prescriptive authority prior to renewal but within ninety (90) days of the expiration date are not required to submit another written statement for renewal. An *Agreement for Physician Supervision Advanced Practice Prescriptive Authority* for each currently supervising physician can be accessed at: <http://nursing.ok.gov/pa-1.pdf>

NOTE: Any changes in supervising physician(s) must be submitted to the Board of Nursing within thirty (30) days of the change. The *Change in Supervising Physician(s) for Advanced Practice Prescriptive Authority* can be accessed at:  
<http://nursing.ok.gov/pa-2.pdf>

The application for renewal of APRN Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist authority to Select, Order, Obtain and Administer drugs shall:

1. Be concurrent with the two-year RN and APRN licensure renewal;
2. Include:

(A) A completed application containing such information as the Board may prescribe and required fee;

(B) Verify, on the renewal application, satisfactory completion of a minimum of eight (8) units of continuing education in advanced pharmacology relating to the administration of anesthesia, as recognized by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists or the Council on Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists, completed during the two (2) years immediately preceding renewal.

NOTE: If selected for audit, the licensee must submit documentation evidencing the continuing education in advanced pharmacology relating to the administration of anesthesia as noted on the renewal application.

The Board of Nursing will contact in writing those APRNs with prescriptive authority randomly selected for participation in the audit process. If you have questions regarding APRN prescriptive authority renewal, please call Shirley Montgomery at (405) 962-1806 or Darcy Roquemore at (405) 962-1803.

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### Elimination of Clinical Nurse Specialist Psychiatric and Mental Health Certifications

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) has announced the Adult Psychiatric & Mental Health and the Child/Adolescent Psychiatric & Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist certification examinations will be **phased out effective December 31, 2016**. At this time, neither the ANCC nor any other national certifying body has offered replacement certification examinations.

An Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist (APRN-CNS) who obtained licensure with these certifications may continue to use the certifications as long as there is not an interruption of licensure/certification. Interruption of active licensure/certification **after December 31, 2016** would require the APRN-CNS to obtain additional formal education in an APRN program in one of the four recognized APRN roles to continue as an APRN.

If the APRN-CNS with one of these certifications is currently inactive, they may file an application to reinstate their license prior to December 31, 2016. If the requirements for reinstatement are met, the APRN-CNS may be reinstated. Additional education will not be required if the license/certification remains active.

As a professional courtesy, a letter was mailed to all Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (active and inactive) who hold one of these certifications. The letters were mailed, October 30, 2015, to the licensee's address on file.

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### Recent Policy Revisions

The following policy has been reviewed/approved and is available for review by hyperlink provided.

#### Approved Policy/Guideline during the March 2016 Board Meeting:

*Licensure Verification and Photocopying of Nursing Licenses, #OBN-02*, available at: <http://nursing.ok.gov/photocopy.pdf>

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### Online Applications

All nursing licensure applications and applications for Advanced Unlicensed Assistants have been available online since 2009. From this time forward, 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.

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## Routine Reminders and Links

### Reminder for Change of Name

To change your name, you must complete the Name Change Request form. Licensees are required to provide certified evidence regarding any change of name within 30 days of the change. 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. Alternatively, you may complete your change of address on the Board's website: <https://pay.apps.ok.gov/nursing/renewal/login.php>

### 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://ok.gov/nursing/cqlicenser renewal.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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