

# OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING NEWSLETTER

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(405) 962-1800 [www.ok.gov/nursing](http://www.ok.gov/nursing)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JACKYE WARD, MS, RN

Are you passionate about your stuff...your nursing stuff? Do you choose to be a **spectator** or a **participant** in the nursing profession? According to Merriam-Webster, a spectator is one who looks on or watches, while a participant takes on an active part.

The internal and external challenges of healthcare over the last two decades have caused resources to dwindle. Nurses in practice and education have felt the impact. An initial reaction may be to withdraw, becoming spectators of our profession. Should we choose to become mere spectators, we are likely to show up unprepared at the risk of others, performing at the lowest acceptable level, and being reactive instead of proactive.

Those who choose to participate bring heart to their game. They plan ahead, are prepared for whatever may be thrown their way, and hold themselves accountable for their performance. They not only meet role expectations, they take it to the next level in exceeding established criteria. They take seriously the opportunity to help others grow. They bridge the gap between education and practice. How nurses choose to use their knowledge in serving others is as important as the knowledge itself.

Learning does not stop with graduation from a nursing program or achievement of licensure. Lifelong learning is an attribute of nurses who choose to participate. Experienced nurses serve as role models for novice nurses, while novice nurses re-ignite the spark for veteran nurses.

Each nurse, through the application of knowledge and best practice, is capable of significant contributions to nursing. Educators, through role transformation, shift from information giver to that of facilitator, guide, and learner. Through mediation, modeling, and coaching, the educator becomes a co-learner and co-investigator with the student.

The stage is set. Nursing education, nursing practice, and nursing research thrive when the cast is passionate. The view from the sidelines is not that great. Nurses must get involved and remain engaged. As a 29-year veteran of the nursing profession, I work hard each day to qualify for my position and to foster an environment where nurses want to participate. I caution each of you not to settle for "just showing up" each day. I challenge you to consistently give

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your best. Your actions have far-reaching implications for those you serve. Nursing propels us beyond our own concerns. Step up to the plate, swing with confidence and passion.

With regard to participation and exceeding role expectations, I would like to recognize outgoing Oklahoma Board of Nursing members Deborah Booton-Hiser, RN, PhD, Cynthia Foust, RN, PhD, and Heather Sharp, LPN, for their outstanding service. All three were appointed October 30, 2001, and completed their terms on May 31, 2006.

Dr. Booton-Hiser served on the following committees of the Board: Advanced Practice Advisory Committee, 2002-2006; Formulary Advisory Council, 2002-2006; CRNA Formulary Advisory Council, 2002-2006; and Legislative Review Committee 2003-2006. Dr. Booton-Hiser is the Professor and Director of the Oklahoma University Health Science Center Nurse Practitioner Program.

Dr. Foust served as President of the Board of Nursing in 2005; as Vice President in 2004; and Secretary-Treasurer 2003. She also served on the following committees: Advanced Unlicensed Assistive Personnel Advisory Committee, 2002-2005; NCLEX

Pass Rate Task Force, 2003; Education Informal Disposition Panel Subcommittee, 2003-2005; and Legislative Review Committee, 2005-2006. Dr. Foust is the Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs at Southwestern University in Weatherford.

Ms. Sharp served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board for 2004-2005. She served on the following Board committees: Mutual Recognition Task Force, 2003; Education Informal Disposition Panel Subcommittee, 2003-2005; and Continued Competence Subcommittee, 2004-2006. Ms. Sharp is the MDS Coordinator at Canterbury Health Center in Oklahoma City.

We thank Dr. Booton-Hiser, Dr. Foust, and Ms. Sharp for their service to the Board, the public, and the nursing profession. A term on the Board of Nursing requires a significant commitment of time and effort, time away from work and family, and effort that demands tireless dedication. Their selfless contributions leave a legacy that won't be forgotten.

**ORDER FORM FOR THE  
OKLAHOMA NURSING PRACTICE ACT & RULES**

Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my personal check, cashier's check or money order, payable to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ copy/copies (at a cost of \$15.00 each) of the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act & Rules*

License Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your payment to:  
Oklahoma Board of Nursing, 2915 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 524, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

## New Rules Adopted for the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules

New rules were adopted by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing and took effect July 1, 2006. These rules will most directly impact the following applicants and licensed nurses:

- Applicants for licensure by endorsement,
- Air Force medics applying for practical nurse equivalency,
- Advanced Unlicensed Assistants requesting reinstatement of their certification, and
- Advanced practice nurses.

Information on some of the revisions to the rules is included in the following paragraphs.

The first revision to be discussed relates to applicants for licensure by endorsement. According to the revised rules, applicants for licensure by endorsement must have completed their nursing education program within the last two years of initial licensure or have at least six months work experience in the original state of licensure. Requirements for licensure by endorsement for foreign-educated nurses licensed in another state were revised. Foreign-educated nurses who completed their CGFNS requirements more than five years ago but have been licensed in another state during that time will no longer be required to repeat CGFNS requirements. In addition, rules were added regarding English language competency testing requirements for foreign-educated nurses. The new rules ensure that English language competency testing is waived only for those who are licensed in another state and have at least six months work experience in that state. Finally, eligibility requirements for a temporary license for foreign-educated nurses were added.

Air Force medics are eligible to apply for practical nurse equivalency in Oklahoma if their training is at the 4N051 level or higher. However, new rules were adopted to provide for an evaluation of the training received by the medic to ensure that all curricular re-

quirements have been met. These requirements include theory and clinical experience in care of the adult, care of the child, and maternal-newborn nursing, as well as theory in mental health nursing concepts.

New rules for Advanced Unlicensed Assistants allow the AUA to apply for reinstatement of a lapsed certification by meeting requirements for work experience, education, or examination within the last two years.

Several rule revisions were adopted related to advanced practice nurse and prescriptive authority recognition. These rule revisions clarified national certification requirements for advanced practice nurses and requirements for advanced practice nurses to receive temporary recognition. In addition, education and national certification requirements for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists were clarified and a category for the Acute Care Pediatric ARNP was added. Other revisions were made to clarify categories of education and initial educational requirements for prescriptive authority. Finally, requirements for initial application for authority to order, select, obtain and administer drugs by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists were also clarified.

The full text of the rules of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing may be reviewed on the Board's website: [www.ok.gov/nursing](http://www.ok.gov/nursing). Proposed and adopted rule changes are posted on the website as well during the rulemaking process, so that licensed nurses can always access information regarding upcoming rule changes. A public hearing is held at a published date and time to allow interested parties to provide feedback to the Board on proposed rule changes. Remember that all nurses are responsible for reading and maintaining compliance with the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules*.

**Review the ONPA and Rules on our**

**website: [www.ok.gov/nursing](http://www.ok.gov/nursing)**

# Farewell Reception Held for Charles Green

Charles Green, Legal Counsel for the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, was honored at a farewell reception held on July 25, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center. Mr. Green has served as the Board's legal counsel since 1967. In that capacity, Mr. Green has advised the Board members and staff on statutory requirements and served as the prosecuting attorney during Board hearings. Friends, family, current and past Board members, and Board staff



Board Attorney  
Charles Green

joined Mr. Green in the celebration. Honored guests included Mr. Green's wife, Pat, and his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Green. Also in attendance were Ms. Frances Waddle, former Executive Director of the Board, and past Board members Betty Apple, Marilyn Lund, and Sue Mitchell. Mr. Green re-

ceived a plaque in commemoration of his years of service, as well as gifts and cards.

Speakers at the reception included Kim Glazier, Executive Director of the Board, Jackye Ward, Board President, Deborah Booton-Hiser, Board member, and Frances Waddle, former Executive Director of the Board.

Even after a busy 39-year career with the Board, Mr. Green has not retired. He is currently in practice with Cheek & Gellnar, PLLC. We wish him the best!

## OPEN MEETING NOTICE

All Oklahoma Board of Nursing meetings are open to the public except those portions which may be in Executive Session. The first day of Board meetings begins at 5:30 p.m., with the second and third day beginning at 8:00 a.m. All actions of the Board are taken in open session. Nurses, members of other professional disciplines, students and the public are invited to attend. Groups who plan to attend should schedule their attendance in advance with the Board office to ensure seating is available. There is an Open Forum on the first day of each Board meeting. Anyone wishing to address the Board about a nursing issue should contact Kim Glazier, Executive Director, and request to be placed on the agenda for the Open Forum.

Committee meetings are also open to the public. Please call ahead of time if you plan to attend as dates, times, and location may be changed. The committee meetings are cancelled and rescheduled if it is determined a quorum will not be present.

Meetings	Dates	Sites
Oklahoma Board of Nursing	Sept. 26, 27, & 28, 2006 Nov. 14, 15 & 16, 2006 Jan. 30, 31, Feb. 1, 2007 Mar. 27, 28, 29, 2007 July 17, 18, 19, 2007 Sept. 25, 26, 27, 2007 Nov. 13, 14, 15, 2007	Holiday Inn 2101 S. Meridian Oklahoma City, OK (405) 685-4000
Formulary Advisory Council	Sept. 14, 2006	Board Office
Board Issues Meeting	Oct. 12 & 13, 2006	Chesapeake Boathouse 725 S. Byers Avenue Oklahoma City, OK
CRNA Formulary Committee	April 23, 2007	Board Office
AUA Advisory Committee	May 10, 2007	Board Office

## Highlights from Presentations to Charles Green

### From Dr. Deborah Booton-Hiser, Board Member:

Simply stated, we admire and adore you, Charles! You have been the single most influential person for the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, and in fact all nurses in the State of Oklahoma, for almost four decades.

Your care, compassion and expertise, have assured the public that nurses were able to be nurses and do what nurses do, in order to provide quality health care – while also providing skilled legal guidance and bringing forth pertinent testimony about nurses who deviated from the practice act.

As Board members, we have “grown up” with you. Several of us recall when as nursing students, we came to witness a Board meeting the first time – what an impression this process and your actions made on each of us! Some of us have come before the Board to provide testimony as witnesses for nurses brought before the Board. Although we might not have understood all the nuances of the process, we knew to respect you and the Board for diligently conducting the business at hand. As nurse educators, some of us have brought our students to witness the actions of the Board, again with you as the legal representation during the hearings... As Board members, we sincerely appreciate the commitment, skill and dedication you afforded our loved profession of nursing. There is no one else that can really understand what we as nurses do, why we do what we do

and when we fall and err, what it takes for us to get back on the right track.

...You clearly have protected the public by your knowledge of what we, as nurses, must do to provide care within the Statutes and Rules,

*In Recognition of  
Charles Green, J.D.  
With Our Grateful Appreciation  
for Your Devotion, Loyalty and  
Dedicated Service to the Nurses  
and the Public of the State of  
Oklahoma.  
1967-2006*

all the way helping us move our practice act forward to allow us to continue to grow and offer more and better care to the citizens of Oklahoma. How can we ever thank you enough!

### From Frances I. Waddle, former Executive Director:

A year or so after I became the Executive Director in 1966, our attorney told me that he was leaving his private practice and that, “There’s a young attorney working in the Oklahoma City legal division. He plans on going into private practice and might be a good fit for the Board. His name is Charles Green”. I visited with Mr. Green and arranged for him to meet with three of the Board members prior to a Board meeting. At the meeting the next day, the Board approved the recommendation and that was the beginning of his long association with four Executive Directors with very different personalities, numerous Board members, and OBN staff...[Mr. Green] was

always prepared for the duties he needed to fulfill [and]... I am convinced that he continued to be prepared for the Board’s activities throughout his tenure... In 1983, the Oklahoma Nurses Association awarded Mr. Green its first Honorary Recognition Award, and I wrote, “Nurses who have observed the Board meetings describe Mr. Green’s participation as supportive, assertive, and trying to present the facts so that the Board can reach the proper decision”...Mr. Green’s tenure began with significant changes in the nursing profession in Oklahoma and throughout the United States as well as changes in the Board’s responsibilities; i.e., enactment of the Administrative Procedures Act and the transition of regulatory agencies to full status in State government responsibilities. He assisted the Board and staff to respond to the challenges of these changes.

He has worked with four different Executive Directors, and many different Board members and staff during this time. To my knowledge, each of these persons has the highest respect for Mr. Green’s integrity and competence in protecting the public as he served as legal counsel for the Board of Nursing. I appreciate the support and assistance Mr. Green provided during my tenure as the Executive Director and I know those following me have expressed similar appreciation. Mr. Green, I offer many thanks for all your efforts and best wishes for your future activities!

# Online Licensure Renewal Frequently Asked Questions



As many of you already know, the Board of Nursing has implemented a new and improved online renewal process. To assist you in this transition from hard copy renewal to the website renewal process, we have developed the following list of frequently asked questions:

- ☞ **When can I renew my license?** You are eligible to renew your license beginning three months before the expiration date of the license and until midnight on the day of your current expiration date. If your expiration date falls on a weekend day or holiday, then you may renew your license online up until midnight of the next business day. We **strongly** encourage you to renew your license as soon as you are eligible to do so, in order to prevent a last minute panic. You can renew your license within minutes! *(To find out when your license expires you can check your pocket license card or go to our website and click on the link to “License Verification” for the expiration date.)*
- ☞ **Can the Credentialing Coordinator/Specialist for my organization renew my license for me online?** The answer to this question is absolutely not! Per the Oklahoma Board of Nursing Rules the following is **cause for disciplinary action**: “The terms fraud or deceit or material deception, shall include but not be limited to: (A) false representation of facts in connection with an application for licensure, or certificate, or renewal of license; or application for recognition as an advanced practitioner” [485:10-11-1 (b) (1) (A)]. Only the licensee can complete and submit the online license renewal information; no other individual should have access to the licensee’s online information. We have taken significant measures to ensure the security of the website; please do not put your license in jeopardy by allowing another individual to attempt to renew your license.
- ☞ **I didn’t receive a renewal letter, why not?** Renewal letters are mailed out 90 days prior to the expiration date to the address that the Board has on file. Any of the following factors could impact whether or not you receive your renewal letter: if you have had an address change and did not notify us in writing of the address change, or you did not change your address online, or you did not notify the postal service to have your mail forwarded to your new address, or the renewal letter may have simply been lost in the mail. Please remember that you are required to notify the Board of an address change within 30 days of the change. Renewal letters are sent to all licensees as a courtesy; however, it is ultimately the nurse’s responsibility to make note of the license expiration date and to renew the license prior to the expiration date.
- ☞ **What information do I need to renew online?** All you need is a computer with internet access to log on to <http://www.ok.gov/nursing>, your renewal letter with your assigned personal identification number (PIN) & license number, and a MasterCard, Visa or checking account number.
- ☞ **What do I do if I have misplaced my renewal letter and do not know my PIN number?** You can retrieve your PIN number by logging on to our website [www.ok.gov/nursing](http://www.ok.gov/nursing) to renew your license and requesting your PIN number at that time. For security purposes, the system will ask for the last 4 digits of your social security number, your date of birth and an e-mail address. Your PIN number will then be e-mailed to you. You may also come to the Board office, present the appropriate identification and the Board staff will give you your PIN number. Due to security measures, the Board does not provide PIN numbers over the telephone.
- ☞ **I requested my PIN number online and entered in my current e-mail address, but I didn’t receive it. What should I do now?**

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Some virus protection software or Microsoft patches, may impact your ability to receive the e-mail with your PIN number. Please check your 'junk' mail folder or your 'spam' folder prior to calling for technical assistance as your e-mail notification could very well be in one of these e-mail folders.

☞ **Do I have to renew my Advanced Practice Nurse Recognition when I renew my RN license?** If you intend to renew your APN recognition and, if applicable, your prescriptive authority recognition, you should renew them at the same time as your RN license (providing you have maintained your advanced practice current national certification status and have successfully completed the required number of prescriptive authority advanced pharmacology contact hours applicable to your scope of practice). If you indicate that you do not wish to renew your APN and/or prescriptive authority, your license renewal will be placed on hold until after the expiration date, in order to ensure that your new license card accurately reflects your status.

☞ **If I received initial prescriptive authority recognition within the 24 months prior to my licensure renewal, how many pharmacology contact hours do I indicate I have successfully completed?** If you received initial prescriptive authority recognition within the 24 months prior to your licensure renewal, the prescriptive authority renewal requirement of 15 contact hours or one academic credit hour of education, or the equivalent, in pharmacotherapeutics does not apply to you. The online prescriptive authority renewal system does require you to complete the section on contact hours/academic credit hours in order for you to complete this section of your renewal; therefore, you would simply enter the number of pharmacotherapeutic credit hours and/or contact hours that you successfully completed and were approved for your initial prescriptive authority recognition.

☞ **Do I have to submit new supervising physician agreements for all the physicians that supervise my prescriptive authority?** Yes, per the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, the supervising physician agreement is required for both the initial application for prescriptive authority recognition and the renewal. There is a convenient link on the website to print out supervising physician agreements for completion and submission to the Board following completion of the online renewal process. Your online renewal cannot be processed until the required documentation is received. The agreements for all your supervising physicians must be received prior to your expiration date.

☞ **How can I find out the status of my renewal?** Upon successful completion of your online renewal, your new effective date of licensure will be uploaded to the website for online licensure verification within two business days. *(Please note that certain circumstances such as yes responses to arrest questions, the lack of submission of supervising physician agreements for those with prescriptive authority, or other extenuating circumstances, may delay the process.)*

☞ **Does my employer have to view my pocket license card to verify active nursing licensure in Oklahoma?** Employers can verify active nursing licensure by the following methods:

1. By viewing the pocket license card
2. By viewing active licensure via our website (*website verification is primary source verification-see our guideline "Licensure Verification and Photocopying of Nursing Licenses"*)

☞ **When will I receive my pocket license card?** Your license card should arrive within two to four weeks of a completed renewal. *(Please note that certain circumstances such as yes responses to arrest questions, the lack of submission of supervising physician agreements*

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*for those with prescriptive authority, or other extenuating circumstances, may delay the process.)*

☞ **How can I tell that my online renewal was successful?** You can print out a confirmation page verifying payment of your licensure renewal to confirm the date you renewed your license online. Sometimes it takes a few minutes for the renewal to process after you click on “Submit”. Please be patient and do not close your Internet browser until you see the confirmation of renewal submission page.

☞ **What if I am having computer/technical diffi-**

**culties?** Technical assistance is available! Please contact our website provider, Ok.Gov, at 405-524-3468 or toll free at 1-800-955-3468 for technical assistance.

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing has worked extensively with our website partners at Your Oklahoma to develop & implement this new and improved online renewal process. We hope that this list of frequently asked questions & answers assists you in completing the online renewal process. Again, welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the age of computers and secure online licensure renewal!

## OBTAINING RESULTS OF THE NCLEX EXAMINATION

**Applicants for Oklahoma licensure who have taken the NCLEX examination can obtain their unofficial results within two business days from the time of testing through the NCLEX Quick Results Service offered by Pearson Vue, the testing service offering the NCLEX examination.** There is a \$9.95 fee for the use of this service. The applicant may access their unofficial results via the internet or by telephone 24 hours per day. The applicant’s credit card will be billed only if results are available.

**To obtain results via the internet, the applicant may go to [www.pearsonvue.com/nclex](http://www.pearsonvue.com/nclex) and sign in with a user name and password.** After logging in, the applicant clicks on “Current Activity”, then “Recent Appointments”, then “Status” to access the Quick Results link. After entering a credit card number, the exam results may be accessed.

**To obtain results by telephone, the applicant may call the NCLEX Quick Results line at 1-900-776-2539.** The Quick Results Service provides an applicant unofficial results only and does not authorize a applicant to practice as a licensed nurse until the license is issued by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing will generally mail the results to the applicant within one week of re-

ceipt of the results. **Results will not be given over the telephone to the applicant or to any other individual by Board staff.** If the applicant has been issued a license, the receptionist may verbally verify that the individual has a license. However, the applicant should not assume they have failed the examination if the receptionist says that there is no license for that individual in the database. It is possible that the results may not have been received from the testing service, or the license may not have been processed at the time the call comes in. Usually results can be received using the NCLEX Quick Results service before the license is issued.

Using the Quick Results Service can provide the anxious applicant peace of mind regarding their NCLEX performance even before a license is issued. **However, an employer must remember that the employee cannot begin working in a licensed position until the license is issued and can be verified.** This verification can be obtained from our website within two days after the license is issued. The license card and certificate will be mailed promptly to the applicant, so that the employer can also view the license card within a short period of time.

## Declaratory Ruling on Certified Nurse Midwives Performing First Assistant Duties Issued by Board

In May 2006, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing (“Board”) issued a *Second Amended Declaratory Ruling* in response to a petition by L. Louise Drake, M.H.R., R.N., on behalf of the Advanced Practice Advisory Committee, requesting a decision as to whether it is within the current scope of practice of the Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) to perform first assistant duties in obstetrical and gynecological procedures, provided the CNM has been formally educated on the process and has demonstrated competence to perform the proper techniques for the procedures.

The Board concluded and declared it is within the current scope of practice of the CNM to perform first assistant duties if the CNM has completed the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) process for incorporating first assistant responsibilities for obstetrical and gynecological procedures into the scope of practice, under the following conditions:

1. The CNM must complete the ACNM process in lieu of completing an AORN course/program accepted by the Competency and Credentialing Institute, which provides certification in periopera-

tive nursing and certification in Registered Nurse First Assistants, and in lieu of meeting the recommended *AORN Standards for RN First Assistant Education Programs*.

2. The CNM who first assists is doing so under the provision of advanced practice certification and not as an RN First Assistant, pursuant to individually expanding practice beyond the Core Competencies for basic midwifery practice, and in compliance with the ACNM Position Statement: *The Certified Nurse-Midwife/Certified as First Assistant at Surgery* and the *Guidelines for the Incorporation of New Procedures into Nurse-Midwifery Practice*, [which are incorporated into the *Standards for the Practice of Midwifery*, specifically Standard VIII].

The *Second Amended Declaratory Ruling* not only addresses the CNM issue but also revises the previous ruling on the Registered Nurse First Assistant. See the following article for additional changes made to the ruling. The ruling may be accessed online through the Board’s website at: <http://www.ok.gov/nursing>.

## Other Changes to the Registered Nurse First Assistant Declaratory Ruling Approved by Board

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing (“Board”) has approved the *Second Amended Declaratory Ruling* on Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA). The revisions were recommended to the Board by the Nursing Education and Nursing Practice Advisory Committee. The revisions continue to support the RNFA’s compliance with the *AORN Official Statement on RN First Assistants* as established by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), Inc., and the *AORN Standards for RN First Assistant Education Programs*. The date of July 21, 1999, referenced to the *Amended AORN Official Statement on RN First Assistant* was deleted.

The Board concluded and declared the ruling should read to incorporate the **current** *AORN Official Statement on RN First Assistants* and the **current** *AORN Standards for RN First Assistant Education Programs* and so modified by the AORN should the official statement and standards be further revised, as applicable, and in accordance with the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules of the Board. The ruling may be accessed on line at: <http://www.ok.gov/nursing>.

## RAPID SEQUENCE INTUBATION GUIDELINES APPROVED BY BOARD

The Nursing Education and Nursing Practice Advisory Committee recommended guidelines to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing to provide guidance to Registered Nurses who may be asked to assist a licensed provider during rapid sequence intubation of a patient. Licensed providers are defined in the guidelines as physicians or CRNAs authorized by state law and by facility credentialing and policies to administer deep sedation/analgesia and/or general anesthesia. The guidelines were approved by the Board on May 25, 2006, and they outline criteria that must be met prior to the registered nurse assisting a licensed provider performing rapid sequence intubation. You may access the guidelines at: <http://www.ok.gov/nursing>.

An overview of the approved guidelines is as follows:

1. The registered nurse may administer anesthesia agents/paralytic agents/sedative analgesics in situations where the **provider is present** but unable to personally inject the agents because the provider is performing the critical task of airway management for the patient during rapid sequence intubation, if the registered nurse has educational preparation and clinical competence to inject such agents.
2. *The Rapid Sequence Intubation Guidelines* assert it is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to administer IV push medications during the rapid sequence intubation of a patient at the

direction of a licensed provider in **an acute care facility** or during **pre-hospital/inter-hospital response and transportation**.

3. Medications, such as paralytic, sedative and analgesic medications, may be administered by the registered nurse **unless the drug manufacturer's general warning advises the drug should be administered and monitored only by persons experienced in the use of general anesthesia.**
4. The licensed provider who is performing the intubation must be **present at the bedside of the patient** when the registered nurse is administering the medications in a facility. During pre-hospital/inter-hospital response and transportation, the registered nurse must be in **direct contact** via telecommunications with a licensed provider.
5. Written facility policies and procedures are developed in conjunction with licensed providers performing rapid sequence intubations and must be available within the employing facility and to the registered nurse administering paralytic, sedative and analgesic agents.
6. Emergency equipment and medication that must be available immediately to the patient receiving any medication classified as an anesthetic agent or paralytic agent.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

I need to report my change of address to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. Please note that address changes may also be made on the Board's website: [www.ok.gov/nursing](http://www.ok.gov/nursing).

CERTIFICATE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ or

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE (required) \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

OLD ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:	Oklahoma Board of Nursing 2915 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 524 Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Fax to:	(405) 962-1821

In accordance with OAC 485:10-7-9 & 485:10-9-9, it is the legal duty of a licensed nurse to notify the Oklahoma Board of Nursing of a change of address in writing within 30 days of the change.

## PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROVIDES SUPPORT AND STRUCTURE

Nurses understand the importance of care planning. It begins with the first patient contact and is the road map back to optimum health. Unfortunately, patients return because of failure to follow the map. At Peer Assistance we try to help our clients follow that map into solid recovery even when they are tempted to go in another direction or stop all together. This is done by providing structure and accountability.

Nurses with substance abuse problems enter into a monitoring contract with the program for a period of two to five years. The actual length of monitoring will depend on the nurse meeting the program's Successful Completion Criteria. These criteria include demonstration of 24 consecutive months of sobriety evidenced by appropriate body fluid testing and behaviors consistent with recovery, a minimum period of supervised practice, and compliance with the contract. As the conclusion of the contract approaches the nurse is asked to address their stability in recovery and plans for continuation of their sobriety without the external structure of the program. The following statements are excerpts from nurses who successfully completed the program:

*"Today, I am very grateful that I was caught diverting and that Peer Assistance exists. In the beginning when I didn't think I could stay clean, and didn't want to, the things I had to do for Peer kept me from using. Later, when I began to like the way I felt without drugs, I was grateful for the support of the Committee. Today, I am glad Peer Assistance is here. The structure and requirements were the support I needed until I was strong enough to stand on my own feet."*

*"Today, I give thanks for many things. I am grateful that I was caught diverting and forced into treatment, grateful that Peer Assistance was there, grateful to still have a family and still be a nurse. I am grateful first to be alive."*

*"In closing to say that I am not apprehensive about exiting Peer Assistance Program would be a lie. There is a part of me that is scared, but the other part of me knows that if I continue to work on my recovery one day at a time, I will be able to stay clean and sober one day at a time. I would like to say how much I appreciate this program and how valuable I think it is for the nurses in the state of Oklahoma. It is my prayer and my goal to be able to help other nurses in their road to recovery. God has already brought other nurses into my life, and I am more than happy to share my experience, strength, and hope with them."*

Individuals in early recovery need help if they are going to stay clean and sober. The Peer Assistance Program tries to provide external structure and support while the nurse is developing their own internal structure and support system in the community. The nurses above chose to accept help that was offered.

Do you or a nurse you know need help? Contact the Peer Assistance Program at (405) 525-2277. All inquiries are confidential.

### PROTECT THE SECURITY OF YOUR ONLINE INFORMATION:

**DO NOT SHARE YOUR PIN NUMBER WITH ANOTHER PERSON. ONLY YOU SHOULD ACCESS AND ENTER YOUR RENEWAL OR UPDATE PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THE BOARD'S WEBSITE.**

## Oklahoma Nurses Serve as Members of NCLEX Item Development Panels

The National Council of State Board of Nursing, which is responsible for the development and administration of the licensure examinations for RN's and LPN's is dependent on the commitment of nurses throughout the country to maintain high standards for the assessment of nursing competence at the entry level. Each year, nurses volunteer their time as members of the NCLEX Item Development Panels, which meet at various times throughout the year. If they are selected, they are paid for their expenses to participate in the panel, which usually last 3-5 days.

If you are interested in serving on an item development panel, please check the National Council of State Boards of Nursing website: [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org). An online form is available.

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing would like to recognize the following Oklahoma nurses who have

been selected for an NCLEX Item Development Panel. We would like to thank the employers of these nurses, who have allowed them the time off that is necessary to be able to participate in this valuable experience.

Mary Remshardt, RN  
Durant, OK

Maribeth Moran, RN  
Oklahoma City, OK

Keri Gerkin, RN  
Tulsa, OK

Donna Capps, RN  
Owasso, OK

## Pronouncement of Death by Nurses

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing ("Board") continues to receive frequent inquires concerning the pronouncement of death by nurses. The Board endorsed statements regarding the *Determination of Death by Nurses* in 1992, after reviewing the legal opinion from the Board's attorney. Recently, the Board attorney reviewed the previous legal opinion and found no statutory changes have occurred that affect the prior legal opinion approved by the Board.

The following information is summarized from the Board attorney's legal opinion regarding the *Determination of Death by Nurses*, and this information is provided to nurses who may be asked to pronounce the death of a patient or client, regardless of the setting including Hospice and long term care nursing facilities.

1 Under the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act (ONPA), nurses may properly observe and record the status of a patient in order to allow a **qualified medical practitioner** to draw conclusions or to make a diagnosis. In O.S. § 63-3122 [Declaration of death], "...A determination of death must be made in accordance with **accepted medical standards...**"

2. It appears nurses **do not have the authority** to pronounce death under the ONPA. To pronounce death appears to require an act of **medical diagnosis** which nurses are expressly prohibited from performing and which essentially constitutes the practice of medicine, osteopathy or chiropractic.

In accordance with O.S. § 63-1-317 [Death certificate Filing Contents], the medical certification portion of the death certificate shall be completed and signed within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death. When the physician in charge of the patient's care is not in attendance at the time of death, the medical certification shall be completed and signed within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician in attendance at the time of death. This statute also addresses deaths unattended by a licensed medical, osteopathy or chiropractic physician.

You may wish to refer to the 1986 Uniform Determination of Death Act codified as O.S. § 63-3122. You may access statutes from the Oklahoma Legislature web site: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us>.



## Summary of Board Activities

During the **January, 2006** meeting, the Board:

- Elected new officers for the Board:
  - ◊ President: Jackye Ward, MS, RN
  - ◊ Vice-President: Louise Talley, PhD, RN
  - ◊ Secretary/Treasurer: Jan O'Fields, LPN
- Appointed the following individuals to the Advanced Practice Advisory Committee:
  - ◊ Pauline Lisle, MS, RN, CNM
  - ◊ Philip H. Runyon, CRNA
- Adopted proposed changes to the *Rules*
- Approved requests from the following nursing education programs:
  - ◊ Step I application for a new baccalaureate nursing education program, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City
  - ◊ Request to offer online courses and a clinical site in San Diego, CA, as a part of the online program for LPN-BSN and accelerated BSN students, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lawton, and Internet-based campuses
  - ◊ Request to offer extended campuses in Elk City and Duncan, Western Oklahoma State College, Altus and Lawton campuses
  - ◊ Request to offer an extended campus at OU Medical Center, Redlands Community College, El Reno and Mercy campuses
- Accepted survey visit reports and continued the full approval status of the following programs for five years:
  - ◊ Mid-Del Technology Center, Midwest City
  - ◊ University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
  - ◊ High Plains Technology Center, Woodward
- Accepted survey visit report and granted full approval status for two years for Autry Technology Center, Enid. Requested that a focus survey visit be conducted in one year.
- Accepted follow-up report on survey visit recommendations from the following programs, and requested a second follow-up report to be submitted by June 30, 2006:
  - ◊ Rose State College, Midwest City and Internet-based campuses
  - ◊ Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City and Goodwell campuses

During the **March, 2006** meeting, the Board:

- Directed that a response letter be prepared and mailed to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing regarding the Vision Paper on the Future Regulation of Advanced Practice Nursing
- Approved requests from the following nursing education programs:
  - ◊ Step II application for a new baccalaureate nursing education program, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City. Granted Provisional Approval status to the program.
  - ◊ Curriculum change request, Tulsa Community College, Tulsa
- Accepted focus survey visit report conducted at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses. Placed the program on Conditional Approval status and approved admissions to the program to total no more than 15.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

### Summary of Board Activities (continued)

During the **May, 2006** meeting, the Board:

- Appointed the following individuals to the Advanced Practice Advisory Committee:
  - ◊ Mark Williams, CRNA
  - ◊ Mark L. Richardson, CRNA
- Appointed the following individuals to the Peer Assistance Committee
  - ◊ Cindy M. Lyons, MS, RN
  - ◊ Patty Gail Patton, LADC, LPC, LMFT
- Approved FY 2007 budget
- Approved *Rapid Sequence Intubation Guidelines*
- Approved revisions to the following policies/guidelines/declaratory rulings:
  - ◊ *Amended Declaratory Ruling: RN First Assistant*
- Approved requests from the following nursing education programs:
  - ◊ Curriculum change request from Bacone College, Muskogee
  - ◊ Curriculum change request from Autry Technology Center, Enid
  - ◊ Request for an additional program offering at Tulsa Community College, University of Oklahoma, Tulsa campus. Requested that focus visit be conducted in Fall, 2007 and a report be submitted by the program in October, 2008, with a breakdown of NCLEX pass rates.
- Accepted pass rate reports from the following programs:
  - ◊ Platt College, Moore campus
  - ◊ Redlands Community College, Mercy campus
  - ◊ Oklahoma State University, Okmulgee
  - ◊ Southern Nazarene University, Bethany
  - ◊ Langston University, Tulsa
- Accepted survey visit report and continued the full approval status for five years for the following programs:
  - ◊ Francis Tuttle Technology Center, Oklahoma City
  - ◊ East Central University, Ada and Durant campuses (requested that a follow-up report be submitted in one year)
  - ◊ Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami and Grove campuses
  - ◊ Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa, Enid, and Stillwater campuses (requested that a follow-up report be submitted in one year)
- Accepted survey visit report and returned the program to full approval status for a period of six months. Requested that a focus survey visit be conducted in October, 2006 to be reviewed at the November, 2006 meeting.

**Disciplinary actions taken by the  
Oklahoma Board of Nursing can be  
reviewed on the Board's website:**

**[www.ok.gov/nursing](http://www.ok.gov/nursing)**

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