

COMPLAINTS AGAINST NURSES

Whether complaints or provider reports (pursuant to the Maine Health Security Act) are submitted to the Board, many factors are involved regarding “how long will it take to be resolved.”

First, the facility, organization, or person who is providing the information must provide sufficient detail and information that so the nurse is able to respond. Often a facility simply sends a letter that states the individual’s employment has been terminated. We then have to request further information. This can delay the process a month or more.

Next, the nurse is required to respond in writing to the complaint. Clearly it is stressful to the nurse who often calls with many questions regarding the process. A flippant response or a failure to respond at all delays the process even further. The nurse should anticipate that if he or she was terminated from employment or if resigned in lieu of termination that a letter will be coming from the Board. The Maine Health Security Act requires such a report be made to the concerned licensee’s board. <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/24/title24sec2506.html>

Therefore, the nurse should step back, collect thoughts, and take time to type a detailed and thorough response providing his or her “side of the story.” Remember that the Board members know neither the nurse nor the situation that resulted in the facility’s action or the patient’s complaint.

The Board reviews the complaints and responses at its Board meeting and determines which licensees need to be seen in an informal meeting. Often the Board dismisses the complaint as it sees the issue as an employer/employee issue or a personal issue and the like. If the Board determines it needs to meet with the nurse, an informal conference is scheduled. This does not happen the following day. The Board members themselves are in fulltime nursing practice; serving on the Board is a volunteer endeavor. Further, the assistant attorney general assigned to the Board has to be available; he is not assigned exclusively to the Board of Nursing but has responsibilities for other state agencies as well. Assuring the nurse’s due process also takes time.

Remember, if you are the provider of the report/complaint to supply sufficient and relevant information right from the start in order to allow the nurse the ability to respond adequately and to allow the Board an accurate and factual description of the situation. If you are the nurse who must respond, it is in your best interest to type out a detailed response putting down all your thoughts and the facts, wait a day or two, review what you have typed recognizing that you may have been flippant and angry in your initial attempt, and edit the response to provide a complete answer.

SUMMARY OF BOARD OF NURSING RULE CHANGES 2008

1. Chapter 5 Regulations Relating to Training Programs and Delegation by Registered Professional Nurses of Selected Nursing Tasks to Certified Nursing Assistants

- In accordance with a law passed by legislature the ratio is changed from 1:1 to 1:3 for instructor to pupil for CNA Standardized Medication Course when in clinical setting
- Allows for other assessment mechanisms approved by Board in addition to Test of Adult Basic Education for entry into Standardized Medication Course for Certified Nursing Assistants

2. Chapter 8 Regulations Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nursing

- The fee is increased to \$100.00 for APRNs
- Operationalizes the law passed by legislature to permit the required 24 month period of supervision of a new nurse practitioner to be performed by a nurse practitioner who practices in the same practice category for which the new nurse practitioner is authorized by Board

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE PRACTICE

At its June 3-4, 2008 meeting, the Board determined that a registered professional nurse who is educationally prepared according to the organization/facility’s established policies and procedures may perform the Toronto Bedside Swallowing Screening Test (TOR-BSST) on patients at risk for aspiration.

ADDRESS CHANGE

If your address changes for any reason (you have moved, the street name has changed or 911 has caused there to be a change) – you **MUST** notify the Board of Nursing as soon as possible. The Board uses the last known address to notify you when your license is due for renewal and for any other necessary communication.. Your license is always due for renewal biennially on your birthday.

You may also change your address online at <http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing> under the renewal link.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

REVOCACTION

Janet N. Hart-Leclerc
Franklin, ME
R043361
Eff. Date: 07/09/07

Jane M. Clayton
Burnham, ME
P005407
Eff. Date: 01/26/08

Paul R. Hale
Concord, NH
R047986
Eff. Date: 04/08/08

SUSPENSION

Paul R. Hale
Concord, NH
R047986
Eff. Date: 03/13/08

Robert E. Dillon, Jr.
Lebanon, ME
R046177
Eff. Date: 04/09/08

Michael W. Hendry
Nashville, TN
R045808
Eff. Date: 04/28/08 + fined

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

Patricia A. Parker
Ellsworth, ME
P003389
Eff. Date: 01/22/08

Ida M. McGee
Steuben, ME
R053520
Eff. Date: 03/13/08

Marc P. Chamberlain
New Brunswick, Canada
R043249
Eff. Date: 05/14/08

PROBATION

Wendy C. Jochum
Monmouth, ME
R045895
Eff. Date: 08/02/07

Marc P. Chamberlain
Turner, ME
R043249
Eff. Date: 08/14/07

Frank E. Goodale, Jr.
Portland, ME
R047637
Eff. Date: 01/26/08

Louise A. McDonough
Stockton Springs, ME
R051641
Eff. Date: 02/29/08

Laurier A. Pepin
Lewiston, ME
P009714
Eff. Date: 04/29/08

Margaret S. Van Peurse
Brewer, ME
R044088
Eff. Date: 04/30/08

Sheila M. Harlow
Pownal, ME
R048703
Eff. Date: 05/08/08

Linda R. Kimball
Scarborough, ME
R025227
Eff. Date: 06/02/08

Crystal B. Cates
So. Portland, ME
R051750
Eff. Date: 06/26/08

REPRIMAND

Danielle R. Little
Carmel, ME
R037189
Eff. Date: 04/29/08

Barbara L. Cary
Madison, ME
R029182
Eff. Date: 05/14/08

CENSURE

Michael E. Weiss
Myrtle Beach, SC
R050167
Eff. Date: 01/26/08

WARNED

Richard A. Wine
Waterville, ME
R052110
Eff. Date: 01/29/08

Harriet M. Eddy
Brownville, ME
P001349
Eff. Date: 04/24/08

OTHER ACTIONS

Christopher W. Christensen
Littleton, CO
Denied licensure by endorsement

**LICENSEES FINED FROM
01/01/08 – 06/30/08 FOR PRAC-
TICING DURING LAPSED
LICENSE STATUS: 53**

**COMPLAINTS DISMISSED
FROM 01/01/08 – 07/30/08: 76**

APRN LICENSURE

Effective September 1, 2008 APRNs will be licensed in the category for which they have received approval to practice: nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, and clinical nurse specialist. An active RN license will no longer be a requirement for practice as an APRN in Maine. More detailed information will be mailed to APRNs in the near future.

ATTENTION ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

The Board increased the number of advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) continuing education audits per month. Many of those audited have not met the continuing education requirement.

Please DO:

1. Submit your audit materials 3 weeks prior to your birthday,
2. Submit continuing education relevant to your Board approved advanced practice clinical specialty,
3. List your Category I and II continuing education topics,
4. Provide certificates for Category I and outlines if clarification of topic necessary, and
5. Provide a list of specific Category II activities including the date and length of activity.

Please Do NOT:

1. Generalize your Category II activities,
2. Provide continuing education that you have completed for your general professional development,
3. Provide continuing education that does not fall within your Board approved clinical specialty
4. Provide less than 30 category I continuing education credits toward the required 75 CEUs
5. Provide continuing education credits that fall outside the two year period of licensure.

APRNs approved after January 1, 1996 must maintain a current national certification during their current approval to practice cycle. We are mailing letters six weeks prior to the APRN's birthday requesting a copy of the renewed certification. We must receive the documentation on or before the APRN's birthday to prevent the approval to practice from lapsing.