



Maine State Board of Nursing BULLETIN

161 Capitol Street • 158 State House • Augusta, ME 04333
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Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) Update

Currently the following 21 states are in the NLC: Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. While Colorado and Rhode Island have enacted the Compact, they have not yet implemented it. Colorado plans to implement this fall; Rhode Island's date is undetermined at this time.

While having a multistate privilege gives nurses flexibility and mobility, there are rules to remember when moving to a new state. Nurses have 30 days beginning with the first day worked after moving their primary residence to Maine to obtain a Maine license. If 30 days pass and a Maine license has not been procured, then the nurse must cease the practice of nursing as the original compact license with the multistate privilege becomes inactive. In many cases nurses may simply reactivate an inactive Maine license if they have held one previously.

Nurses who continue to work on the original compact license until its expiration date after moving to Maine are in violation of the law and rules of the Maine State Board of Nursing.

The NLC applies only to registered professional nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs).

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) must obtain a Maine State Board of Nursing letter of approval authorizing the advanced practice AND must have a current RN license. If the APRN is doing locum tenens work, he or she must have a current license with multistate privileges from another compact state AND the letter of approval from the Maine State Board of Nursing. If the APRN decides to move his primary state of residence to Maine, then he must obtain a Maine RN license within the 30 day period.

Points to Remember:

1. *The nurse with a primary state of residence in a compact state (home state) cannot hold a LPN or RN license in a remote state. A remote state is a compact state other than the nurse's primary state of residence. The exception is if the nurse is working for the military or other federal government institution.*
2. *Nurses must obey all laws in the state where the nursing practice occurs.*
3. *The LPN or RN with a compact state license with multistate privileges may work in any other compact state provided that: the nurse holds a valid, unencumbered license (a license not burdened by disciplinary requirements) in a compact state and that state is her primary state of residence.*
4. *Primary state of residence means the state of a person's declared fixed permanent and principal home for legal purposes (domicile).*
5. *If the RN or LPN moves her primary state of residence to a different compact state, the nurse may continue to practice on the original compact state license for a 30 day period. During this 30 day period, the nurse must obtain licensure in the new home state. If the nurse does not have a license in the new home state in the 30 day period, the nurse must stop the practice of nursing until the license has been obtained. The former compact state license will have been invalidated.*

NCSBN NEWS

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) met in Chicago, Aug. 7 – 10, 2007, to consider pertinent association business with its member boards of nursing. Faith Fields, NCSBN president and executive director of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, presided at the meeting. All 59 member boards were represented by delegates.

Highlights of some of the significant actions approved by the member boards of nursing included:

- Election of new directors to the Board of Directors and members of the Committee on Nominations.
- Adoption of the 2008 NCLEX-PN Test Plan for licensed practical/vocational nurses.
- Adoption of new strategic initiatives that will set the course for NCSBN through 2010.
- Adoption of the Guiding Principles of Nursing Regulation.
- Approved revisions to NCSBN's bylaws to enhance organizational culture.
- Approved Statement on the Regulatory Implications of Pain Management.
- Renewed NCLEX Examination Contract with Pearson VUE.

Maine State Board of Nursing Members

		<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Therese B. Shipps, D.N.Sc., R.N.	Stillwater	Educator	August 17, 2009
Karen L. Tripp	Old Orchard Beach	Public Member	November 16, 2006
Bruce R. O'Donnell, C.R.N.A.	Turner	Advanced Practice	January 30, 2011
Dorothy Melanson, R.N.	Falmouth	Nursing Service	February 13, 2008
Susan L. Brume, L.P.N.	Portland	LPN Member	July 29, 2009
Robin Brooks	Orrs Island	Public Member	July 29, 2009
Carmen Christensen, R.N.	Jefferson	Long Term Care	November 16, 2010
Lynn F. Turnbull, R.N.	New Sweden	Nursing Service	January 30, 2011
Susan Baltrus, R.N.	Lewiston	Educator	April 14, 2011

Filling Out Forms ...or... How to Avoid Delay

The Maine State Board of Nursing often mails application forms – or other documents- back to people for various reasons. *A few tips to avoid delay and having your application/correspondence returned to you are:*

SIGN! The primary reason forms or letters are returned is because the applicant or writer of letter did not sign his or her name.

COMPLETE THE ENTIRE FORM Too many times the applicant submits an incomplete form which delays processing. All questions must be answered completely. The question most often left blank is indicating your primary state of residence. Without this, your form cannot be processed.

FORM SENT TO BOARD IN ERROR When a request for verification of Maine licensure is mailed to the Board to verify licensure to another state, the form is returned. You must send that request to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, 111 East Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60601 with a \$30.00 money order or cashier's check

ADDRESS CHANGE An address change can be made online. However, submitting a post office box without a street address is not permitted. While an individual may certainly use a post office box to receive mail, no one resides in a post office box! Thus, you **MUST** furnish the street address where you reside. This information can be kept on our history field and not be revealed to the public, but we must have it for our records. You are also required to notify the Board of Nursing whenever you do change your address since notification that your license is due to expire is mailed to the last known address. More people have practiced on lapsed licenses (and consequently, have been fined) because of a failure to keep the Board updated of address changes.

NAME CHANGE Changing your name requires a copy of your marriage license, divorce decree, or other legal document indicating the legal name change.

Nurses and Criminal Convictions

The question is often asked if an individual with a criminal conviction may become a nurse.

The answer is....*possibly*...

According to the law (5 M.R.S.A. Sections 5301, 5302), the appropriate state licensing agency may take into consideration criminal history record from Maine or elsewhere...but the existence of information shall not operate as an automatic bar to being licensed...

This means that you are not automatically disqualified from becoming a nurse because of the criminal conviction, but the Board may consider whether or not you have been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust. The applicant shall bear the burden of proof.

The decision to enter a nursing program is yours. The basic answer to your question as to whether convictions for **theft, OUIs, drug trafficking, shoplifting, receiving stolen property, etc, etc.** preclude nursing licensure is that there is no crime listed in the law that automatically precludes licensure in nursing. However, the Board of Nursing may certainly consider the conviction when making the determination to license an individual or not. However, the Board of Nursing will not make the determination before a person has even entered a nursing program.

Please note that OUIs ARE criminal convictions – they are NOT minor traffic offenses!

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

REVOCACTION

Sylenda S. Mitchell
Portland, ME
R051388
Eff. Date: 06/14/07

SUSPENSION

Janet N. Hart-Leclerc
Franklin, ME
R043361
Eff. Date: 06/14/07

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

Della A. Orsmond
Camden, ME
R049121
Eff. Date: 02/21/07

Renee L. Walker
Skowhegan, ME
R047947
Eff. Date: 02/21/07

Marlene Lightfoot-Lane
Fairfield, ME
R031885
Eff. Date: 07/09/07

PROBATION

Nicolle Dauphinee
Hampden, ME
R053117
Eff. Date: 11/09/06

Pamela L. Dufresne
Augusta, ME
P011979
Eff. Date: 12/01/06

Karen E. Greenlaw
Orrington, ME
R027127
Eff. Date: 01/18/07

Lauren M. Simmons
Portland, ME
R030193
Eff. Date: 02/14/07

Dianne M. Stephenson
Cape Elizabeth, ME
R026688
Eff. Date: 02/14/07

Ida McGee
Steuben, ME
R053520
Eff. Date: 04/11/07

PROBATION (continued)

Karen L. Barakat
Portland, ME
R032102
Eff. Date: 04/25/07

Virginia E. Putnam
Brunswick, ME
R036703
Eff. Date: 04/30/07

Lynn Hall
Trenton, ME
R030260
Eff. Date: 05/10/07

Tania M. Margate
So. Windham, ME
R049548
Eff. Date: 07/09/07

REPRIMAND

Angela M. Hatch
Randolph, VT
P010701
Eff. Date: 04/04/07

WARNED

Pamela L. Dufresne
Augusta, ME
P011979
Eff. Date: 12/01/06

Lynn Hall
Trenton, ME
R030260
Eff. Date: 05/10/07

Laurie A. Webber
Saco, ME
R039958
Eff. Date: 07/09/07

PROBATION TERMINATED

Wanda M. Bragdon
Washburn, ME
R041984
Eff. Date: 12/12/06

Jennifer C. Strout
Lewiston, ME
R042272
Eff. Date: 03/14/07

Russell A. Kahl
Orono, ME
R037410
Eff. Date: 03/14/07

Brenda J. Thibodeau
Caribou, ME
R038949
Eff. Date: 03/14/07

PROBATION TERMINATED (continued)

Cindy S. Blais
Topsham, ME
R043712
Eff. Date: 03/14/07

Marguerite Strong
Wiscasset, ME
R038770
Eff. Date: 04/27/07

Karen A. Jannelle
Litchfield, ME
P007989
Eff. Date: 06/13/07

Darlene D. Fish
Sidney, ME
R036549
Eff. Date: 06/13/07

Cara Doucette
Van Buren, ME
R047771
Eff. Date: 06/13/07

Stacy L. Slocum
Bangor, ME
R040433
Eff. Date: 06/13/07

OTHER ACTIONS

Mark P. Paquette
Saco, ME
Denied licensure by endorsement

Ethel M. Paul-Landolt
Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia
Canada
R053535
Eff. Date: 04/16/07
Licensed by examination per Board Order

**LICENSEES FINED FROM
11/01/06 – 07/31/07
FOR PRACTICING DURING
LAPSED LICENSE STATUS: 173**

**COMPLAINTS DISMISSED FROM
11/01/06 – 07/31/07: 113**

Maine State Board of Nursing
158 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0158

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APRN Reminders

Advanced practice registered nurses' (APRN) authority to practice is based on an active registered professional (RN) nursing license. Approximately six weeks prior to the time the APRN must renew his/her RN license and approval to practice as an APRN, a post card is sent to the last known address to remind the APRN to complete the RN renewal process on-line. Under a separate mailing, the APRN is mailed an application to renew his or her approval to practice. Renewal of the APRN approval is currently a manual process. The application must be received by the office on or before the APRN's birthday or the approval to practice will lapse.

APRNs who have been selected for an audit should submit this information as soon as possible in order to avoid delay. In the event that additional information or clarification is necessary at the time of the audit review, the APRN would still be able to submit the information while on an active approval and avoid having the approval to practice lapse.

APRNs must maintain a current certification in order to practice (unless the APRN meets the special provisions outlined in Chapter 8 Regulations Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nursing, Sec.1, 2. B.). A "grace period" or temporary approval to practice for the APRN with a lapsed certification WILL NOT BE GRANTED! If an APRN has a current approval to practice and does not have a current certification because he/she has failed to renew his/her certification or applied for renewal of certification later than suggested by the certifying body, he or she cannot practice until the Board receives evidence that the APRN has a current certification.

Develop a new habit:

Your license expires on your birth date every two years. Therefore, it would be a good habit to check annually at the beginning of your birth month to be sure that you are current. You can then renew online. A postcard reminder is sent to the last known address.