



ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING

INSIGHTS

A Message from the Executive Officer A Thank You to Alabama Nurses

As 2019 drew to a close, the members and staff of the Alabama Board of Nursing saw a big year coming. Earlier in the year, we had successfully petitioned the Legislature to approve joining the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). The staff had spent the entire Summer and Fall preparing for big changes, which were coming January 1st.

Well, January 1 came and went, and we learned that the NLC was more popular with our licensees than we could possibly have imagined. There were (and still are) growing pains, but Compact implementation was a rousing success, for the ABN and for thousands of dedicated nursing professionals in Alabama. Little did we know what was just around the corner...

The outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States has changed many things about our state and our nation, possibly forever. We just do not know how all of this will turn out, but there has proven to be certainty about one thing. The nursing profession remains the most trusted in America, with good reason. During these unprecedented and uncertain times, nurses throughout Alabama have selflessly cared for and comforted tens of thousands of patients and family members, because caring is what we do.

Be proud of yourselves and know that we are proud of you.

ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING

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Reminder: ABN Offices Closed to the Public Due to COVID-19

Pursuant to the orders of Governor Kay Ivey in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Board has resumed normal operations. However, the Board's offices remain closed to the public until further notice. Please understand that we have taken this action out of necessity, and that the Board

remains ready, willing, and able to help through electronic means.

As always, if you require assistance with any issue, please feel free to contact us via telephone, social media, Live Chat on the Board's website, or by emailing us at abn@abn.alabama.gov.

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APN NEWS

Out-of-State Advanced Practice Nurses with Compact Licenses Must Provide Notice to the ABN by June 30

As Alabama is now a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact, it is no longer necessary for CRNPs, CNMs, CRNAs, and CNSs who hold valid multistate RN licenses (MSL) in other states to maintain their Alabama RN license. However, the Compact does not govern advanced practice, so these providers must maintain their Alabama APRN approvals.

Accordingly, per ABN Administrative Code §610-X-4-.08(8):

(8) No later than June 30, 2020, Alabama-approved advanced practice nurses holding multistate licenses issued by party states other than Alabama shall notify the Board of their home state licensure status. Such nurses shall not be required to renew advanced practice approval in 2020; advanced practice approval must be renewed between September 1 and December 31 of every odd-numbered year thereafter.

To summarize, any APRN with a non-Alabama RN MSL must provide notice to the Board of his or her home state license status by June 30. These nurses will not be required to renew their Alabama RN licenses in 2020, and will have their Alabama APRN renewal dates reset to December 31 of odd years, beginning in 2021.

With the deadline only a few weeks away, it is imperative that this requirement be met. The notification form is available on the [ABN website](#), and should be returned by fax, at (334) 293-5201, or email to advancedpractice@abn.alabama.gov. There is no application fee for this form.

LICENSING NOTES

Notes for Exam Applicants

The ABN has received reports indicating that some applicants for licensure by exam who hold temporary permits are under the impression that the COVID-19 circumstances allow them to continue in temporary status indefinitely. This is not true. Temporary Permits for applicants are valid for 180 days. If the permit expires prior to your sitting for and passing the NCLEX exam, you will not be legally permitted to work in Alabama. With NCLEX scheduling continuing, we encourage each of you to schedule the exam at your earliest convenience, and we wish you all success.

Please note that each applicant should apply for licensure by examination in only one state. We also have received reports indicating that some applicants are applying for and receiving Temporary Permits in multiple jurisdictions. This is not allowed.

Governor Ivey Appoints ABN Members

Effective January 1 of this year, Governor Kay Ivey filled three positions on the Alabama Board of Nursing, reappointing ABN Vice President Valorie Dearmon, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, and Cherry Rodgers, LPN, and appointing new Board Member Louise O'Keefe, PhD, CRNP, CNE, to four-year terms ending December 31, 2023. Dr. Dearmon and Dr. O'Keefe serve in Nursing Education positions on the Board, and Ms. Rodgers holds an AFLPN position.



Dr. Dearmon received a diploma in nursing (1972) from Mastin School of Nursing in Mobile, Alabama. She received a BSN (1978) from the University of South Alabama (USA) in Mobile and an MSN (1982) from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Her DNP was earned from the University of South Alabama in 2009. She has extensive experience in nursing practice, administration, and education. Dr. Dearmon's expertise lies in nursing leadership and system change with a focus on quality and safety. She is committed to narrowing the gap between education and practice.

While serving as a Nursing Department Chair at USA, she worked in collaboration with practice partners from the University Hospital to implement shared governance. The innovative partnership integrated faculty into the governance structure with a focus on best practice translation. The initiative was recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing as best practice in academic-practice partnerships. Dr. Dearmon is also the recipient of a substantial HRSA grant aimed to enhance competency of nurse practitioner preceptors of students who provide primary care to the underserved. Valorie is active in numerous professional organizations providing leadership in various capacities. She has presented nationally and internationally and published extensively in peer reviewed journals.



Dr. O'Keefe has been a practicing nurse for 37 years. As a registered nurse, she worked in the Intensive Care Unit at George Washington University Medical Center, in Washington, D.C. She has been an advanced practice nurse for the last 22 years. For the first ten years of her career as a nurse practitioner, she worked in family practice in Purcellville, Virginia. In 2006, she moved to Huntsville, because of her husband's job with the U.S. Army. Dr. O'Keefe will tell you that she has the best job in the world. She teaches nurse practitioner students and practices in the Employee Health Clinic that she established on the campus of The University of Alabama in Huntsville. She enjoys teaching students and taking care of patients. Dr. O'Keefe has been married to her husband, Gerry, for 30 years; they have one daughter, who attended the University of Alabama as an undergraduate and graduated from the UA School of Law in 2018.



A native of Tuskegee, Ms. Rodgers has over 30 years of experience as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She is a graduate of Southern Vocational College in Tuskegee and has enjoyed a rewarding and notable career in nursing.

Ms. Rodgers currently is employed with Department of Veterans Affairs. She also is a member and serves as Vice President of the Alabama Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses.

Alabama Nurses and the COVID-19 Response

In response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Alabama, the Alabama Board of Nursing worked closely with other regulatory boards and with Governor Ivey, to ease or eliminate a number of unnecessary barriers to patient care. Specifically, the Governor issued and renewed orders expanding access to advanced practice providers for patients throughout the state for the duration of the emergency. A brief summary of these changes follows:

CRNAs:

- In a licensed healthcare facility (LHF), a CRNA may practice with direction from the CMO or his or her designee, which frees the CRNA to practice in any area of the facility, such as ED, ICU, or elsewhere.
- Broadens and allows CRNAs to provide full scope of practice and employ the full complement of their unique skills outside the perioperative period, Example: ICUs, EDs, Ventilator units, or as needed (whether or not associated with the provision of anesthesia).
- Broadens CRNA practice through facility protocols. The LHF can develop CRNA-related protocols supportive of patient care, based on the scope of practice for a CRNA. CRNAs are authorized to perform all skills as authorized in the facility protocols.
- A facility can have an unlimited number of CRNAs.
- CRNAs do not need to submit applications for approval, as record-keeping will occur at the facility level. No approval fees are required during this crisis period.

CRNPs/CNMs:

- In an LHF, CRNPs and CNMs may practice in collaboration with the CMO or his or her designee, which may be in specific patient locations within the hospital, such as ED, ICU, or elsewhere in the facility. The CRNP/CNM may practice to their full scope of practice based on education and training. In addition, CRNP/CNMs are authorized to prescribe from a facility-approved formulary and perform all skills authorized in the facility protocols. (controlled substance prescribing requires DEA registration through the ABME). Allows for the CMO or designee to have unlimited collaborations.
- Broadens what a CRNP/CNM can do through facility protocol. The LHF can develop related CRNP/CNM protocols supportive of patient care, based on the scope of practice for a CRNP/CNM.
- A facility can have an unlimited number of CRNPs/CNMs. An application is not required as the LHF will perform record keeping for this. There is no fee associated with the LTF approval during this crisis period.

In addition, the Board passed a number of emergency rules, which remain in effect for the duration of the emergency. Among the changes, the Board eased the path for reactivation of retired licenses and reinstatement of lapsed licenses, as well as extending the effectiveness all temporary permits to 180 days from the date of issue. However, perhaps most impactfully, the emergency rules established a delegation program, which allows licensed nurses to delegate certain nursing tasks to currently-enrolled nursing students who are employed as nursing aides in licensed facilities.

Please continue to watch your email and the Board's website, www.abn.alabama.gov, for further developments.

Our nation faces a substance abuse crisis.

At the Alabama Board of Nursing, we see every day the devastating effects of the disease of addiction, which destroys families, careers, and lives.

But we also see the hope that comes with successful recovery.

We want to spread that hope and we want you to help us. If you or a loved one has experienced a successful recovery from addiction, you can share your story with others and contribute to our efforts to fight the substance abuse crisis in America.

Simply send your story to testimonials@abn.alabama.gov

and we may share it, or parts of it, through our continuing campaign to encourage recovery among Alabama nurses and the public. You can be assured that you remain anonymous and that your personal information will never be shared without your consent.

If you have a recovery story to share, please send it and know that you have helped us help others build a better life.



**Voluntary
Disciplinary
Alternative
Program**