



ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING

INSIGHTS

A Message from the Executive Officer

Alabama Is Grateful for Its Nurses, And So Am I

Nurses know as well as anyone that thankfulness and gratefulness go hand-in-hand in the greater scheme of life. Despite the challenges we face, we have many reasons to feel both, especially now, when burnout creeps into our minds and our bodies respond to the seemingly endless toil of the day.

I am thankful that, because of you, others live; because of you, others thrive and can once again be united with their family. Lives continue and comfort comes to our loved ones when we cannot be there, because of you. I am grateful and thankful for all nurses. May this season be a time of peace and renewal for each and every one of you.

ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING

770 Washington Avenue, Suite 250
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 303900
Montgomery, AL 36130-3900
334.293.5200 • 800.656.5318
fax: 334.293.5201

EDITORIAL BOARD

Peggy Benson, RN, MSHA, MSN, NE-BC
Executive Officer

Honor L. Ingels
Chief Communications Officer

BOARD MEMBERS

Cheryl Bailey, MBA, BSN, RN
President

Valorie Dearmon, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
Vice President

Vicki M. Hill, MSN, RN
Secretary

Natalie Baker, DNP, CRNP, FAANP

Cynthia Buford, LPN

Peggie Carpenter, BA, LPN

Cara W. Floyd, LPN

Gladys Davis Hill, MSN, RN

Martha Houston (Consumer)

Louise O'Keefe, PhD, CRNP, CNE

Cherry D. Rodgers, LPN

Gabriel Sapalaran, BSN, RN

Janice Seip, CRNA, RN

**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.

FOLLOW US!



www.facebook.com/ALBoardOfNsg



www.twitter.com/ALBoardNsg

APN NEWS

Reminder: All APNs Must Provide Verification of Recertification to the Board

As confusion persists among APNs regarding maintenance of national certification for continued approval to engage in advanced practice nursing, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the ABN Administrative Code requires all advanced practice nurses to maintain national certification and to ensure that primary source verification is provided to the Board upon recertification.

To clarify, “primary source verification” must be provided directly to the Board of Nursing by the certifying agency. The APN accomplishes this at the time of application for certification, usually by checking a box on the application. We urge every APN practicing in the state to take care to request that the certifying body send verification to the Board. **If verification of your recertification is not on file with the Board prior to the expiration date reflected on the prior certification, you will no longer be legally authorized to engage in advanced practice nursing in the state of Alabama.**

Alabama Medicaid Agency Amends Rules, Expanding Signature Authority for CRNPs

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act authorizes nurse practitioners to certify for Medicare and Medicaid home health care services, in accordance with state law and regulations. Accordingly, effective December 14, 2020, the Alabama Medicaid Agency has amended Alabama Administrative Code §§ 560-X-13-.01, 560-X-12.05, 560-X-.08, and 560-X-.09. These amendments expand existing language, and authorize nurse practitioners to order home health services and to certify the face-to-face visit, as required by law.

The Board is encouraged by this development, as we work collaboratively with advanced practice nurses throughout the state to ensure that they are authorized to practice to the full scope of their education, training, and national certification.

Attention: CRNAs

Please Verify That Your Recertification Has Been Submitted to the ABN

A large number of CRNAs who took advantage of the NBCRNA decision to extend recertifications through November 30 have not submitted verification of recertification to the Board of Nursing, and are currently non-compliant with the rules governing advanced practice nursing. Please review your records and, if you are among that number, you must request that the NBCRNA send this verification to the Board immediately.

NOTES

Free CE Offerings Available on the ABN Website

As we have for many years, the ABN is pleased to offer licensees dozens of hours of Board-developed CE, at no cost to the nurse. To access these courses, simply log into [My Profile](#) on the Board’s website and choose “My CE Record.” On this page, you are able to review your current CE credit and to access the courses, using the “Online Courses” tab.

Those of you who still have not renewed your licenses will find this page particularly helpful, as it serves as a one-stop shop for more than enough CE hours to satisfy the 24-hour requirement for Renewal.

LICENSING NOTES

Urgent Reminder for Nurses Whose Pending SSL-to-MSL Applications Were Filed Prior to Renewal

Alabama nurses are understandably excited by the opportunity to apply for multistate licenses (MSLs) and thousands have applied to convert to this license type from the single state license (SSL). However, a large number of applications that were filed prior to the September 1 renewal period remain pending, as the Board awaits further information (such as documentation of adequate CE) to complete them. Those nurses whose applications remain incomplete risk having their SSLs lapse in December, prior to completing the MSL application process. If you are one of these applicants, you have two options for maintaining licensure:

1. Completing the pending RN MSL application, at which time these nurses will be granted a multistate license, which is valid through December 31, 2021. No additional licensure fees will be due to the Board, as the \$200.00 MSL fee was paid at the time of application.

OR

2. Renewing their RN SSLs, at an additional cost of \$100.00, during the 2020 Renewal Period, which ends December 31, 2020. Those RNs who choose to renew their SSLs should be aware that their pending MSL applications will remain pending, until one year from the date on which it was filed, at which time the application will expire.

Reminder: RNs with Multistate Licenses Are Not Required to Renew in 2020

Upon entering the NLC, the Board established a bifurcated RN renewal process, to ease the transition. While RNs with SSLs continue to renew their licenses in even-numbered years, MSL RN licenses expire in odd-numbered years, beginning in 2021. Accordingly, any RN who has converted his or her single state license to a multistate license is not required to renew in 2020. Please take note of this, as the renewal application is designed to eliminate duplicate licensure.

Nurses Holding MSLs Issued by Other States No Longer Required to Renew Their RN Licenses

As a party to the NLC, the ABN now recognizes MSLs issued by other Compact states. Any RN who holds a valid, unencumbered MSL issued by a state other than Alabama is no longer required to maintain RN licensure in Alabama. If you hold such a license, you should not renew, and allow your Alabama RN license to lapse. However, if you are an advanced practice nurse (APN) who holds an MSL from another state, you must notify the Board of your home state licensure status prior to the end of 2020 renewal, or your Alabama advanced practice approval may lapse. If your approval lapses, you will no longer be authorized to engage in advanced practice in this state.

Renewal Demographic Questions are Vital to Nursing’s Future

Each year during renewal, nurses have the opportunity to ensure the future of the profession, by responding to a series of voluntary demographic questions. While participation is not required, the Board encourages everyone to respond to the survey, which is used to assemble a national data set for regulators and employers to make crucial decisions regarding workforce needs for the future. As you prepare to renew this year, please consider answering this survey. Your individual responses will never be shared, as the Board remains committed to preserving your privacy.

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**