

SPECIAL NOTICE – LPN IV THERAPY REGULATIONS – FINAL

On August 24, 2012, amendments to the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Rules and Regulations were published as final in the PA Bulletin with an **effective date of August 25, 2012**. The Regulations can be viewed at www.pabulletin.com. The regulatory changes include §§ 21.141, 21.145 and 21.203 (relating to definitions, functions of the LPN and specific curriculum requirements for Practical Nursing programs) and § 21.145a and § 21.145b (relating to prohibited acts and IV therapy curriculum requirements).

The intent of these regulatory changes is to standardize LPN practice across the Commonwealth related to IV access devices. The regulations provide mandates for the educational program that must be provided for LPNs working with IV access devices to ensure patient safety. Practical nursing education programs are required to include these changes in the curriculum by **February 25, 2013**. Board-approved providers of LPN IV therapy education must include the amended content by **February 25, 2013**.

Within **six (6) months** after the final regulations are published, all Board-approved Practical Nursing Education Programs and all Board-approved LPN IV Therapy Education Programs will be required to verify that the regulatory changes have been incorporated into their programs. A list of specific curriculum content can be found in the following “SPECIAL NOTICE - LPN IV Therapy Regulations – Curriculum Content.”

§21.148(a)(1) of the LPN Regulations (related to standards of nursing conduct) states, “A licensed practical nurse shall: (1) Undertake a specific practice only if the licensed practical nurse has the necessary knowledge, preparation, experience and competency to properly execute the practice.” LPNs can determine their need to complete an entire Board-approved IV therapy course or only those components needed to meet regulatory changes.

LPNs should be aware of these regulatory changes and verify if the Board-approved IV therapy course they choose to attend includes the amended LPN regulations.

Questions related to these changes can be directed to the Board office at **(717) 783-7142** or ST-NURSE@pa.gov.

SPECIAL NOTICE – LPN IV THERAPY REGULATIONS – CURRICULUM CONTENT

On August 24, 2012, amendments to the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Rules and Regulations were published as final in the PA Bulletin with an **effective date of August 25, 2012**. The Regulations can be viewed at www.pabulletin.com. The regulatory changes include §§ 21.141, 21.145 and 21.203 (relating to definitions, functions of the LPN and specific curriculum requirements for Practical Nursing programs) and § 21.145a and § 21.145b (relating to prohibited acts and IV therapy curriculum requirements).

Within **6 months after** the final regulations are published, all Board-approved Practical Nursing Education Programs and all Board-approved LPN IV Therapy Education Programs will be required to verify that the curriculum includes all of the following content:

1. Review of PN Law, Rules & Regulations
2. Review of agency policy regarding IV therapy (If applicable)
3. Definition of IV therapy and indications
4. Types of vascular access delivery devices
5. Age-related considerations
6. Legal implications for IV therapy
7. Anatomy and physiology
8. Fluid and electrolyte balance
9. Infusion equipment used in IV therapy
10. Parenteral solutions and indications
11. Infection control and safety
12. Insertion of peripheral short catheters
13. Administration, maintenance and monitoring of peripheral IV therapy
14. Complications and nursing interventions
15. Central and peripheral vascular devices
16. Administration, maintenance and monitoring of central and peripheral IV therapy
17. Documentation
18. Patient education

Questions can be directed to the Board office at 717-783-7142 or st-nurse@pa.gov.