

Re-activating Your Inactive or Expired License

Licensees of the Board of Medicine may inactivate their license by submitting a written request to place their license on inactive status or by simply allowing their license to expire at the time of the biennial license renewal cycle. Those who hold an inactive or expired license will not be sent any correspondence from the board (including biennial renewal notices) for the following or subsequent biennial registration periods unless that individual contacts the board and completes the appropriate paperwork to reactivate their license.

Licensees may reactivate their license **prior to four years of inactivity** if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- A request is submitted to the board on the proper reactivation application forms;
- All required continuing education credits have been satisfactorily completed in the current or previous licensing cycle and meet the continuing education requirements of that licensing profession;
- The appropriate reactivation fee has been paid;
- The licensee submits a sworn statement setting forth the period of time in which the individual did not practice in Pennsylvania; and
- The licensee submits a curriculum vitae; complies with policies relating to reporting of disciplinary actions and criminal dispositions; and provides the status of all other licenses, certificates or authorizations to practice.

For licenses which have been **expired/inactive or (active-retired physician) for four or more years** the process may be different depending on further considerations:

- If a licensee holds a currently active license in another jurisdiction or has been employed by the federal government and has been in active practice in that other jurisdiction during the time the Pennsylvania license was inactive/expired, the above process will apply.
- If a licensee has not actively practiced in another jurisdiction during the previous four years, the application may require review by the full board, a personal interview, and/or an assessment to evaluate qualifications to re-enter active practice.

When a licensee **has not been in practice for four or more years**, the board has an obligation to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the commonwealth by assessing the qualifications of the licensee to resume practice of their profession. During the time of inactivity the licensee may not have been able to keep up with advances in knowledge, techniques or systems that apply to their profession.

Recently the board has been referring professionals to programs outside the purview of the board that assess competence, safety and qualifications for re-entry to active practice. These programs generally involve a clinical skills evaluation and/or retraining program. Many of these programs exist throughout the country, including the Lifeguard Program administered by the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

There are costs involved in any re-entry assessment/training program, and the costs are the responsibility of the licensee. These programs evaluate the licensees who wish to reactivate their practice, and the programs make recommendations to the licensee that also are shared with the board. The board takes these program recommendations into consideration when acting on an application for reactivation. Being required to complete one of these re-entry/re-training programs may delay the reactivation of a license until the program is successfully completed.

For further information please consult the board's web site at www.dos.state.pa.us/med.

Other News:

- [Disciplinary Actions](#)
- [PA Becomes Smoke-Free](#)
- [Here to Help](#) State programs to help in these tough times
- [Learn more about how stimulus money will help PA residents and businesses, recovery.pa.gov.](#)

Midwife Prescriptive Authority

The State Board of Medicine licenses midwives under the Medical Practice Act of 1985. The act was amended in 2007 to, among other things, extend prescriptive authority to qualified nurse-midwives. The board recently amended and added regulations to implement nurse-midwife prescriptive authority.

Nurse-midwives who wish to obtain prescriptive authority may apply for prescriptive authority privileges using the appropriate application/forms provided on the board's Web site at www.dos.state.pa.us/med. A nurse-midwife applying for prescriptive authority must meet all of the board's licensure requirements in order to be issued prescriptive authority privileges.

Nurse-midwives who obtain prescriptive authority will be required to complete the continuing education required by the Professional Nursing Law. For Nurse-Midwives who will be prescribing, the continuing education must include at least 16 hours in pharmacology completed each biennium. Each prescriptive authority issued to a nurse-midwife will need to be renewed during the biennial renewal period ending Dec. 31 of every even-numbered year.

Nurse-midwives licensed by the board may not engage in the practice of midwifery without having entered into a collaborative agreement and must file the collaborative agreement with the board. **With the implementation of these regulations, all nurse- midwives who are actively practicing are required to submit to the board a copy of their collaborative agreement within 90 days of the effective date (April 4) of the updated regulations.** If at any time there is a change to the collaborative agreement, this information must be reported to the board immediately.

Failure to notify the board within 30 days of changes in, or a termination in the collaborative physician/nurse-midwife relationship is a basis for disciplinary action against the nurse-midwife's license. A nurse-midwife with prescriptive authority who cannot continue to fulfill the requirements for prescriptive authority shall cease to prescribe and shall so notify the board in writing within 30 days.

For a link to all CNM applications and forms, please see the "licensure information" link on the board's Web site at www.dos.state.pa.us/med. The application for CNM with

prescriptive authority (including the collaborative agreement for prescriptive authority) must be completed and returned to the State Board of Medicine by any CNM wishing to prescribe and dispense drugs. When the prescriptive authority certificate has been issued by the board, the CNM will receive a certificate indicating that the CNM has prescriptive authority. A CNM may not prescribe and dispense drugs without a prescriptive authority certification issued by the State Board of Medicine.

Nurse-Midwives are required to maintain professional liability insurance under Sections 711 and 712 of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act.

Links of Professional Interest

- [Certified Nurse Midwife \(CNM\) Prescriptive Authority](#)
- [Continuing Education \(CE\)](#)
- [Mcare Reporting Requirements](#)
- [2009 Novel Influenza A \(H1N1\)](#), information from the PA Department of Health
- [Clean Hands Save Lives](#), protecting Pennsylvanians from acquiring hospital infections
- [CHIP](#), health insurance for Pennsylvania children and teens

Governor's Newsletter

[Sign up now](#) to receive the weekly e-newsletter from Governor Rendell on important issues facing Pennsylvania.