

Welcome to the State Board of Nursing Electronic Newsletter

The Department of State has revamped the newsletter process and now all of the board's newsletters will be more concise and more readily available, with a new edition every other month via the Internet. The bureau will no longer mail paper newsletters in an effort to provide fresh information more frequently and save time, cost and resources.

Regulations

One of the major responsibilities of the board is protection of the public through the establishment of regulations. The State Board of Nursing encourages participation by the public, representatives of professional organizations, and other interested parties in the revision and writing of the regulations.

The process for promulgation of a new or revised regulation takes a minimum of 18 months to complete. The process is open and dynamic, and occurs during the public session of each meeting. Once the draft is revised and completed the board votes to send the draft forward as proposed rulemaking.

After the Department of State and the Governor's Office review the regulatory package, it is sent to the House and Senate professional licensure committees and then to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. A 30-day public comment period follows, and the board again reviews and revises the regulatory package based on these comments. At this point the regulatory package is forwarded for final rulemaking.

The following list demonstrates the board's commitment to implement change in regulations to reflect current and safe practice.

1. LPN IV Therapy
2. CRNP General Revisions
3. [RN Continuing Education](#) (Final -July 12, 2008)
4. [Nursing Faculty Requirements](#) (Final - July 12, 2008)
5. Clinical Nurse Specialist
6. RN and LPN Program Examination Pass Rates

Board Members

During the past two years the following individuals were appointed as members of the State Board of Nursing: Suzanne M. Hendricks, LPN, of Quakertown (June 2007); Joseph Napolitano, RN, CRNP, of Allentown (April 2008); Christopher Bartlett, public member, of Chester (April 2008); Rafaela Colón, public member, of Philadelphia (June 2008); and Linda Tanzini Ambroso, public member, of Pittsburgh (October 2008).

The board's Chairwoman for 2009 is Ann L. O'Sullivan, PhD, FAAN, CRNP. Dr. O'Sullivan, of Philadelphia, received the 2009 American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) Advocate State Award for Excellence. This prestigious award is given annually to a dedicated nurse practitioner advocate in each state who demonstrates excellence in their area of practice. She will be recognized for this achievement during the 2009 AANP National Conference, which will be held June 17-21, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Commissioner Basil L. Merenda, who is also a board member, received the 2008 John Heinz Friend of Nursing Award from the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association (PSNA). The award is given to a nonmember of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association who has demonstrated leadership characteristics and rendered distinguished service to the nursing profession, and whose contributions and accomplishments are of significance throughout the commonwealth. The Honorary Recognition Award is the highest award accorded by PSNA to a nonmember.

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Other News:

- [Disciplinary Actions](#)
- [PA Becomes Smoke-Free](#)

National Council of State Boards of Nursing

The Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing is a member of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). The purpose of NCSBN is to provide an organization through which boards of nursing counsel on matters of common interest and concern affecting the public health, safety and welfare, including the development of the nursing licensing examination.

Pennsylvania board members and board staff participate in the ongoing work of NCSBN through their roles on various committees. We suggest you take a few minutes and explore NCSBN's Web page at www.ncsbn.org.

Message from the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority

If you are an employee of an Act 13 facility (hospital, ambulatory surgical facility, birthing center and a certain abortion facility) you should know about your options to report a medical error.

The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority is encouraging Patient Safety Officers who work in Act 13 facilities to educate staff about the importance of open communications regarding patient safety events, reporting and the anonymous report option.

In focus group discussions with Patient Safety Officers, they expressed an interest in receiving a brochure that explains the Anonymous Report protocol. Anonymous Report brochures have been made available to Act 13 facilities for Patient Safety Officers to display prominently for staff to access.

The Anonymous Report provision in Act 13 was written to encourage facilities to make process changes to improve patient safety. When a healthcare practitioner feels a patient was harmed due to a preventable event in his or her facility, the first obligation is to report the event internally according to the organization's patient safety plan.

After reporting the event internally, if the healthcare practitioner feels the event was not handled properly, he or she is encouraged to file an Anonymous Report with the authority.

The Anonymous Report brochure is available on the authority's Web site at www.patientsafetyauthority.org by selecting "News and Information" and then "Brochures."

Please let the Patient Safety Authority know if you have any questions or problems accessing the brochure by contacting the communications director, Laurie Baker, at 717-346-0469.

Board Meetings

- April 3, Harrisburg
- May 4-5, Allentown
- June 3-4, Harrisburg
- July 27, Harrisburg
- Sept. 28-29, Harrisburg
- Oct. 23, Harrisburg
- Dec. 3-4, Harrisburg

Keep checking our Web site for future updates of the activities of the board. The board continues to plan meetings outside of Harrisburg. We encourage you to attend a session and meet the board members.

Governor's Newsletter

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