



## APRN Scope and Death Certificates

Following the pronouncement of death, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) may complete the medical certification for a death certificate or fetal death certificate in accordance with [Chapter 193](#) of the Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC). As a result of the 87th legislative session, [House Bill \(HB\) 4048](#) was signed by the Governor on June 15, 2021, and took effect immediately. Previously, state law only permitted APRNs to complete the medical certification for a death certificate or fetal death certificate if a patient was receiving palliative care, or had a written certification of a terminal illness and elected to receive hospice care and was receiving hospice services from a qualified hospice provider. HB 4048 amended Chapter 193 of the THSC to permit APRNs to complete the medical certification, if the death occurred while under their care in connection with the treatment of the condition or disease process that contributed to the death, unless the APRN is otherwise prohibited from doing so by laws and rules applicable to the practice setting or circumstances of the death.

Completing a medical certification for a death certificate or fetal death certificate is an example of a medical aspect of care. According to the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) Texas APRNs may not provide any medical aspects of care independently; there must be a collaborative relationship and practice agreement with a physician.

When providing medical aspects of care, [Board Rule 221.13](#) requires APRNs to utilize written mechanisms which provide authority for that care. Delegation of authority to complete the medical certification for a death certificate or fetal death certificate should be included in the written mechanism used by an APRN. For additional information on death records contact the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#).



## APRN Scope and Pronouncement of Death

In Texas, APRNs may pronounce death in accordance with [Chapter 671 of the Texas Health and Safety Code \(THSC\)](#). Authority in the form of delegation from a physician does not provide authorization for an APRN to pronounce death in a manner not otherwise permitted by this chapter. APRNs cannot pronounce death if artificial means of life support preclude the pronouncement. They may otherwise pronounce death in accordance with written policy, jointly developed and approved by the medical staff or medical consultant and the nursing staff, of the appropriate licensed health care facility, institution, or entity providing services to the patient. If an APRN does not have authority to pronounce death, the APRN must notify a person legally authorized to pronounce the death.

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# Summary of Actions



A regular meeting of the Board of Nursing was held July 22, 2021, in Austin. The following is a summary of Board actions taken during this meeting.

In the **July 16, 2021**, and **August 13, 2021**, editions of the *Texas Register*:

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) adopted emergency amendments to §217.24, relating to *Telemedicine Medical Service Prescriptions*, pursuant to a finding of imminent peril to the public health, safety, and welfare, which requires adoption in fewer than thirty (30) days' notice, as authorized by Tex. Gov't. Code §2001.034. In addition to adopting on an emergency basis, it was also proposed for adoption at the July Board meeting. For further information, see Summary of Actions (pg. 3) in the October 2020 *BON Bulletin* linked at [https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/newsletter\\_pdfs/2020/October%202020%20Bulletin%20Web.pdf](https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/newsletter_pdfs/2020/October%202020%20Bulletin%20Web.pdf)

In the **August 20, 2021**, edition of the *Texas Register*:

The Board adopted amendments to 22 Texas Administrative Code §221.14, relating to *Nurse-Midwives Providing Controlled Substances*, without changes to the proposed text as published in the June 11, 2021, issue of the *Texas Register*. As required by Tex. Gov't. Code §2001.039, the Board filed its notice of intention to review and consider for re-adoption, re-adoption with amendments, or repeal, 22 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 221, pursuant to the 2019 rule review plan adopted by the Board at its July 2018 meeting. The notice was posted in the December 11, 2020, issue of the *Texas Register* (45 TexReg 8885). As a result of the rule review, the Board proposed substantive amendments to §221.14 for consistency with Tex. Occ. Code §157.059, which governs *Delegation of Certain Obstetrical Services*. Tex. Occ. Code §157.059 was amended by Senate

Bill (SB) 406, effective November 1, 2013. Pursuant to SB 406, a physician may delegate to a physician assistant or a nurse-midwife the act of administering or providing controlled substances to the patients of the physician assistant or nurse-midwife during intrapartum and immediate postpartum care. This delegation is limited to seven nurse-midwives or physician assistants or their full-time equivalents and the designated facility at which the nurse-midwife or physician assistant provides care. Additionally, SB 406 authorized the use of a prescriptive authority agreement as an additional method for physician delegation under Tex. Occ. Code §157.059. It also updated the terminology throughout the bill to refer to advanced practice registered nurses. The Board's adopted amendments are necessary for consistency with these statutory changes. Amended §221.14 became effective August 24, 2021.

Following the 2019 agency rule review plan, the BON re-adopted: Chapter 213. Practice and Procedure, §§213.1 - 213.35; Chapter 214. Vocational Nursing Education, §§214.1 - 214.13; Chapter 215. Professional Nursing Education, §§215.1 - 215.13; Chapter 216. Continuing Competency, §§216.1 - 216.11; Chapter 221. Advanced Practice Nurses, §§221.1 - 221.17; and Chapter 222. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with Prescriptive Authority, §§222.1 - 222.10.

In the **September 3, 2021**, edition of the *Texas Register*:

The Board, pursuant to the 2019 rule review plan began review of: Chapter 227. Pilot Programs for Innovative Applications to Vocational and Professional Nursing Education, §§227.1 - 227.4 with a thirty-day public comment period.

In the **September 10, 2021**, edition of the *Texas Register*:

The BON proposed amendments to §213.28, relating to *Licensure of Individuals with Criminal History*. The amendments are being proposed under the authority of the Occupations Code §301.151 and House Bills (HB) 375 and 757, both effective September 1, 2021. HB 375, effective September 1, 2021, amends the existing criminal offense found in the Texas Penal Code §21.02, Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Children, to include disabled individuals. This offense is currently specified in the enumerated list of crimes in the Occupations Code §301.4535 that mandates licensure revocation and denial, as applicable. The proposed amendments to the Guidelines, located in §213.28(c), amend the title of the offense for consistency with the statutory change made by HB 375. HB 757, also effective September 1, 2021, prohibits a licensing agency from denying, suspending, or revoking a license based upon a deferred adjudication that has been successfully completed and dismissed, except in certain, specified circumstances. Under the terms of the bill, a successfully completed deferred adjudication may be considered by a licensing agency when issuing, renewing, denying, or revoking a license if the offense is listed in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 42A.054(a); is described by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 62.001(5) or (6); is committed under *Texas Penal Code* Chapter 21 or 43; or is related to the activity or conduct for which the individual seeks or holds the license. Further, an agency may also consider a completed deferred adjudication if the profession for which the individual holds or seeks a license

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## Nursing Education Actions - July 2021 Board Meeting

### Reviewed Reports:

Status Report on New Nursing Education Programs and Currently Active and Potential Proposals

Status Report on Programs with Sanctions

Report on Communication Activities with Nursing Education Programs

Report of the Program Evaluation of Virtual Survey Visits

Notification of Closure of Nursing Education Program – National

American University – Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Program in Georgetown

Notification of Application for a New RN-to-BSN Program in a Public Junior College – College of the Mainland in Texas City

### Approved Reports of Virtual Survey Visits:

Texas State Technical College West Texas – Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program in Sweetwater

The College of Health Care Professions – ADN Program in Houston

Tyler County Hospital – Vocational Nursing (VN) Program in Woodville

Tarrant County College – VN Program in Fort Worth

### Approval of New Nursing Education Programs

Oxford Academy – VN Program in San Antonio

# Legislative Summary: 87th Texas Legislative Session



The following is a summary of bills relating to the practice of nursing in Texas reported on in the Legislative Report on the 87th Regular Texas Legislative Session at the July 2021 Board of Nursing (BON) Board Meeting. The full report can be viewed at: [https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/board\\_meetings\\_pdfs/2021/Jul/1-3.pdf](https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/board_meetings_pdfs/2021/Jul/1-3.pdf) For the full text of the bills included in this summary, visit [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us).

## Bills Amending the Nursing Practice Act

**House Bill (HB) 375 by Representative Reggie Smith** relating to the prosecution of the offense of continuous sexual abuse of young child or disabled individual increased penalties (licensure suspension or refusal to issue a nurse license) for conviction for sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual. HB 375 amends the Nursing Practice Act (NPA), *Subchapter G, Chapter 301, Occupations Code, Section 301.4535(a)*.

**HB 1434 by Representative Tom Oliverson** amended the Health and Safety Code to prohibit health care practitioners (including nurses) from performing or delegating the performance of a pelvic examination on an anesthetized or unconscious patient unless the pelvic exam is: within the standard scope of a procedure or diagnostic examination scheduled to be performed on the patient; the patient or patient's legally authorized representative has given informed consent as provided for in the *Health and Safety Code*; the pelvic examination is necessary for diagnosis or treatment of the patient's medical condition; or the pelvic exam is for the purpose of collecting evidence. Disciplinary action is authorized for health care providers who violate this section of the *Health and Safety Code*, and Section 301.452(b) of the NPA was amended to reflect the disciplinary provisions noted in the *Health and Safety Code*. For conforming Board of Nursing (BON) rule changes, please see the **Summary of Actions** on page 3.

## Other Bills Relating to Nursing

**HB 119 by Representative Brooks Landgraf** relates to prohibiting organ transplant recipient discrimination on the basis of certain disabilities.

**HB 549 by Representative Senfronia Thompson** added mental health personnel to those that may receive confidential mental health information from a professional in specific, limited circumstances.

**HB 780 by Representative Tom Oliverson** allows for the establishment of a bone marrow donor recruitment program.

**HB 786 by Representative Tom Oliverson** requires cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for telecommunicators.

**HB 4 by Representative Four Price** relates to the provision and delivery of certain health care services in this state, including services under Medicaid and other public benefits programs, using telecommunications or information technology and to reimbursement for some of those services. Effective June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**HB 797 by Representative Donna Howard** relates to the possession and administration of certain vaccines by a home and community support services agency or its employees. Effective May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**HB 1164 by Representative Tom Oliverson** relates to patient safety practices regarding placenta accreta spectrum disorder in level IV maternal level of care designated hospitals.

**HB 1307 by Representative Mary González** relates to the care of preg-

nant women in county jail or in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**HB 1535 by Representative Stephanie Klick** relates to the medical use of low-THC cannabis by patients with certain medical conditions and the establishment of compassionate-use institutional review boards to evaluate and approve proposed research programs to study the medical use of low-THC cannabis in the treatment of certain patients. The bill also amends *Occupations Code Chapter 169* to expand the list of conditions for which a physician may prescribe low-THC cannabis to a patient to include cancer beyond terminal cancer, post-traumatic stress disorder, or a medical condition approved for a research program under *Chapter 487 of Health and Safety Code*.

**HB 1967 by Representative Senfronia Thompson** relates to a database of information about women with uterine fibroids and to uterine fibroid education and research.

**HB 2056 by Representative Stephanie Klick** allows for the practice of dentistry and the provision of teledentistry dental services.

**HB 2211 by Representative Will Metcalf** relates to in-person visitation with hospital patients during certain periods of disaster. HB 2211 amends the *Health and Safety Code* to prohibit a hospital, during a qualifying period of disaster, from prohibiting in-person visitation with a patient receiving care or treatment at the hospital unless federal law or a federal agency requires the hospital to prohibit visitation during that period. This legislation however, does authorize

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## Legislative Summary - continued from previous page

a hospital to require or restrict this visitation as outlined in the bill.

**HB 2462 by Representative Victoria Neave** addresses the reporting of a sexual assault, to evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense, and to other law enforcement procedures occurring with respect to a sexual assault or other sex offense.

**HB 3121 by Representative John Turner** requires the Health and Human Services Commission to develop and implement a voluntary quality standards process to certify psychiatric residential youth treatment facilities. Provision of 24-hour nursing services is among the requirements for the voluntary certification.

**HB 4048 by Representative Steve Allison** eliminated the restriction that APRNs and PAs may only sign death certificates for patients who were certified as terminally ill and receiving hospice or palliative care services. APRNs and PAs may now sign death certificates for patients for whom they were the provider of record for the treatment of the condition or disease process that contributed to the patient's death (See article on pg. 1).

**Senate Bill (SB) 25 by Senator Lois Kolkhorst** grants residents of the long-term care facilities addressed in the bill, the right to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation, ensuring that residents have access to an essential caregiver, with limited exceptions.

**SB 199 by Senator Jane Nelson** concerns automated external defibrillators.

**SB 279 by Senator Chuy Hinojosa** relates to the inclusion of suicide prevention information on certain student identification cards issued by a public school or public institution of higher education. This bill requires certain contact information for suicide prevention to be printed on all public school student ID cards for grades

7-12, as well as community colleges and public universities. The goal of this measure is to foster suicide prevention through greater awareness, equipping students as young as 12 years old. Providing an easily accessible suicide prevention telephone hotline number on a student's ID card will be another necessary resource for potential lifesaving help.

**SB 476 by Senator Jane Nelson** requires the establishment of county adult sexual assault response teams.

**SB 640 by Senator Jose Menendez** permits for a study on the interoperability needs and technology readiness of behavioral health service providers in this state.

**SB 930 by Senator Judith Zaffirini** excludes specific information from protected health information unless made confidential under other law. The name or location of a facility (nursing home, continuing care facility, or assisted living facility) in which residents have been diagnosed with a communicable disease or the number of residents who have been diagnosed with a communicable condition is subject to disclosure.

**SB 968 by Senator Lois Kolkhorst** relates to public health disaster and public health emergency preparedness and response. Within this legislation, nurses should be aware of changes to laws and rules relating to public health disaster and emergency preparedness and response to include: limitations on medical procedures; personal protective equipment contracts; disease prevention information system; wellness checks for medically fragile individuals during certain emergencies; medically fragile individual designation; emergency assistance registry access; required wellness checks; events requiring wellness checks; requirement of wellness checks; communicable diseases; public health disasters and emergencies; and prevention/preparedness

and more related to public health.

**SB 1137 by Senator Lois Kolkhorst** requires disclosure of prices for certain items and services provided by certain medical facilities; providing administrative penalties.

**SB 1578 by Senator Lois Kolkhorst** relates to the use of opinions from medical professionals in making certain determinations relating to the abuse or neglect of a child.

**SB 1876 by Senator Boris Miles** necessitates emergency planning for the continued treatment and safety of end stage renal disease facility patients.

**SJR 19 by Senator Lois Kolkhorst** would amend the Texas Constitution to grant residents of long-term care facilities the right to designate an essential caregiver with whom the facility may not prohibit in-person visitation. The facility may establish essential caregiver visitation policies and procedures in alignment with the legislative guidelines.

### Reminder: Reactivation Waivers Still in Place for Nurses Who Wish to Assist with the Pandemic

The Board of Nursing would like to remind all that the licensure reactivation waiver is still in place for those with INACTIVE, RETIRED, or DELINQUENT Texas nursing licenses who would like to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic. The following items are waived and do not need to be completed: the additional reactivation fee, CE requirement, Refresher Course requirement (for LVN and RN licenses only), and Jurisprudence Exam requirement. For more information, go to: <https://www.bon.texas.gov/COVID-19Licensing.asp#sectionL3>

# Findings from a BON Survey of All Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs – May 2021

## The Effects of COVID-19 on Nursing Education in Texas – Year Two

Texas Board of Nursing (Board) Staff surveyed nursing education programs in May and July 2020 to gauge the impact of the pandemic on their educational progress. Most nursing education programs had abruptly moved to online didactic and virtual simulation learning activities in March 2020. Directors, faculty, and students alike made drastic adjustments to continue the preparation of vocational and professional nurses. A new survey was forwarded to all pre-licensure programs for a May 2021 return. Sixty-three total programs responded and 58 provided usable data for the survey findings. Information was provided from approximately 42% of surveyed vocational programs, 38% of associate degree and diploma programs, and 38% of baccalaureate degree programs. There were also responses from post-licensure programs that may have been located in settings with the pre-licensure programs.

### What strategies have been effective in managing the impact of COVID-19?

Effective Strategy	Percent of Respondents
Adapted to online didactic courses	90%
Utilized virtual simulation	88%
Validated student skills in skills lab	76%
Added more resources for technical assistance	72%
Used more high fidelity simulation for clinical	67%

Specific methodologies and opportunities provided in individual programs:

- Voice-over online lectures that allowed student access more than once
- Faculty-scheduled appointment times for questions from students
- Rotation of smaller groups between hands-on clinical and simulation experiences
- Test-security using Proctoria
- Mixing face-to-face didactic with online portions
- Case studies in virtual labs for clinical experiences
- Rural clinical sites that allowed students' presence in clinicals
- Focus on quality experiences in hands-on clinical time

- Multiple skills check-offs, orientations, pre-clinical competency reviews
- Academic partnerships with rehabilitation settings and public health
- Intramuscular injections (COVID-19 vaccinations)
- Skills training modules and supplies provided to students for home practice
- Partnerships with schools for pediatric experiences
- Return to clinical sites in summer 2020
- In-depth case studies
- Return to face-to-face learning
- Emphasize social-distancing
- Hybrid models
- Volunteering to help at convention center and tent hospital (extension sites for care)
- School nursing
- Telecommunicating with elderly
- Emergency Medical Services ride-along
- Training to assist RNs in care for COVID-19 patients
- Contact tracing for campus
- Work with infection control nurses

### What are the projections for clinical learning experiences in 2021?

- 50% of respondents expect fewer students will be allowed on clinical units.
- 43% of respondents expect to return to regular clinical instruction.
- 38% of respondents expect fewer days each week will be available for student practice.

Though many hospitals are allowing students to return to the units, most are scheduling fewer students on each unit for fewer hours of practice. Long term care facilities and nursing homes have been slower to accept students back into the facilities. Decreased hospital censuses have also affected student placements. Nursing programs have employed more adjunct faculty to supervise the smaller student groups which in turn required rescheduling classroom time until later in the day. Most faculty are spending more contact hours in teaching activities to accommodate students. Experiences in maternal-child and pediatrics are more scarce than before. Another issue is the reduced number of available preceptors for students. Programs may also be dealing with a backlog of students who received an "incomplete" grade for clinical courses.

Programs have identified the following clinical sites for student practice in 2021:

Clinical Site	Percent of Respondents
Acute care	98%
Rehabilitation Facilities	59%
Clinics	59%
Schools	38%
Pediatrics Hospital	33%
Surgery Centers	28%
Home Health	24%
Hospice	22%
Public Health	21%
Long Term Care/Nursing Home	21%
Mental Health Clinics	20%
Assisted Living	14%
Geriatric Centers	12%
Birth Centers	7%
Head Start	7%
Residential Care	7%
Classes for Patients	7%
Other (See examples below)	24%

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## Survey of Pre-Licensure Programs - cont. from prev. page

### “Other Settings” for Clinical Experiences:

Wound care	Cardiac Cath Lab	Operating Room
Emergency Department	In-Patient Psychiatric Care	Peri-anesthesia
Intensive Care	Children with Disabilities	Alzheimer’s Units
In-Patient Drug and Rehab	Respite Care (Mental Health)	Free Standing Urgent Care
In-Patient Mental Health	COVID-19 testing	

### What Plans for Change Are Intended for Your Program?

Planned Changes	Percent of Respondents
Re-evaluation of clinical courses and experiences	53%
Alter clinical rotations	34%
Use of more hybrid courses	22%
Change clinical ratios	22%
Changes in courses and course content	17%

### Other specific planned changes mentioned:

- Add more telehealth and high-fidelity simulation.
- Seek practice partnerships.
- Utilize social distancing in teaching situations.
- Decrease hours for transition students.
- Require students possess equipment for technology.
- Review texts for possible changes.
- Provide PPE for students and faculty.
- Decrease clinical rotations.

### Changes Resulting from COVID-19:

Outcomes from COVID-19	Percent of Respondents
Preceptor shortage	48%
Decline in enrollment	41%
Decision to decrease admissions for social distance space	29%
Difficulty recruiting faculty	22%
Loss of faculty	16%

### Alternate clinical experiences available:

Alternate Clinical Experiences	Percent of Respondents
Vaccination centers	78%
Other (see examples on previous page)	45%
Public health	24%
Partnerships with clinical settings (student jobs)	22%
Telehealth	12%
Hospice	10%
Home health	9%

### Responsibility of Purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Sixty-two percent of respondents reported that nursing programs were responsible for purchasing PPE.

### Is the college or school requiring students to be vaccinated?

Thirty-one percent replied YES; 69% replied NO. Nursing homes and pediatric clinics require students to be vaccinated. It was reported that vaccinated students are not required to mask.

### Additional Comments:

Programs also reported that students who entered the nursing program during the pandemic had a higher rate of attrition. Students who were already enrolled and had established relationships with faculty and other students were more likely to complete the program.

Some faculty have suggested that current students are stronger clinically than expected because of more practice hours in high-fidelity simulation and clinical labs.

Nursing programs have been faced with higher financial costs due to the need to purchase PPE, online testing and proctoring of exams, COVID-19 testing, and more adjunct faculty to supervise smaller groups of students in clinical settings. Faculty have gained a better familiarity with public health and community services.

### *Did You Know...*

**Nurses should not wait until the last part of the month to renew their license(s) when they answer yes to any of the eligibility questions.**

**The closer to the end of the month that nurses wait, the more likely that their license(s) will become delinquent before staff can review and approve the renewal for final processing.**

### *Did you know...*

An Education Newsletter is published twice a year on the BON web page. It can be accessed under the Education Link – Education Newsletter. It is available for all to read and contains articles relevant to nursing education.



## Medical Reserve Corps Units Respond to COVID-19 in Texas

Aside from supporting the current response, MRC units offer a wide variety of ways to get involved with emergency preparedness and response efforts. These include, but are not limited to, shelter operations, support services such as family assistance centers, health education and outreach, mental health services, disaster clean-up, and recovery support. These types of operations are deployed in both natural and man-made incidents and are critical to each and every response. The local units

ical volunteers, medically trained individuals form a backbone for these units, in that the knowledge, training, and leadership skills they bring, are a key element to response and operations. Volunteers from the nursing community, in particular, have formed the core of many MRCs around the country since its inception in 2001.

For more information on the MRC program, please visit: [www.phe.gov/mrc](http://www.phe.gov/mrc). There you can find local units in your area and get connected.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Units of Texas have played a vital role in the state's ongoing response to COVID-19. MRCs are locally organized cadres of volunteers who fulfill a variety of public health and medical roles in preparing for and responding to disasters. These local units are part of a national network, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response office (ASPR). During the COVID-19 response, the MRCs in Texas have supported the mass vaccination campaign, contact tracing efforts, call center operations, testing operations, personal protective equipment distribution, and other efforts. Across 19 of the Texas units, volunteers were able to support the administration of over two million doses (and counting) of vaccines to the citizens of Texas. Over 25,000 volunteers were deployed in total, across multiple cities and counties in the state. The service of these volunteers added up to over 216,000 hours of time during the response.



coordinate trainings and education around these response elements to ensure a volunteer force that is ready to respond to disasters.

Through the MRC program, volunteers are offered opportunities to learn new skills, connect with professionals in the field, and even take on leadership roles within the unit. Participation has even opened up job opportunities. Texas MRC units are consistently looking for more help. While the MRC accepts both medical and non-med-

You can also sign up to become a volunteer in Texas through the Texas Disaster Volunteer Registry: <https://www.texasdisastervolunteerregistry.org/>







# Display of Designations

Texas nurses at all levels of licensure have a responsibility to appropriately display their designations while interacting with the public in a nursing role [Nursing Practice Act (NPA) 301.351, Board Rule 217.10 & 221.2]. This includes the insignia on their uniform and/or badge, and on nursing documentation. Minimum requirements for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) can be found in Board Rule 217.10. Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) must reference Board Rule 221.2 for additional criteria relating to the display of APRN credentials. A nurse's designations may not include more than the following: licensure level; name; certifications; academic degrees; practice position; the name of the employing facility or agency, or other employer; and a picture of the nurse [Board Rule 217.10(b)]. Additionally, it is important to review workplace policies and procedures, and regulations from agencies that regulate practice settings such as Texas Health and Human Services, which may direct nurses to display designations in a particular manner more specific than, but not inconsistent with, what is required by Texas Board of Nursing (Board) rules.

When interacting with the public in a nursing role, the manner in which a nurse's name appears, in reference to the use of first name and/or last name, is the nurse's preference in accordance with facility policy [Board Rule 217.10(b)(1)(A)]. RNs and LVNs must also identify according to their licensure level. For RNs, appropriate identifiers include: R.N., RN, and registered nurse. For LVNs, appropriate identifiers include: L.V.N., LVN, V.N., VN, licensed vocational nurse, and vocational nurse [Board Rule 217.10(a)].

The use of other designations, such as certification and education credentials (i.e., MSN, DNP, or PhD), is not

required by Board rules. However, a nurse may choose to use certification and education credentials, so long as they are current, accurate, and not misleading as to their meaning. Texas RNs that hold national certification as advanced practice nurses but are not licensed as APRNs by the Board should not use the credential awarded by their national certification until they also obtain licensure as an APRN. Board Rule 221.2(d)(2) prohibits the use of any titles or other designations that imply a person is licensed as an APRN without possessing current licensure. Since many APRN certification credentials include the licensure title as part of the credential (e.g., CNM, FNP-BC), it would be misleading for nurses to use APRN certification credentials if they are not also licensed by the Board as APRNs.

APRNs must ensure compliance with Board Rule 221.2, which states that when providing care to patients, the APRN shall wear and provide clear identification that includes the current APRN designation and licensure title being utilized by the APRN. APRNs are required to display both the "APRN" licensure designation, as well as the licensure title granted by the Board when providing care to patients. This means that, at a minimum, an APRN must list their credentials as: (Name), APRN, (licensure title). An individual's licensure title should reflect the role and population focus for the APRN, and there are multiple ways to display this. Board Rule 221.2 identifies the four APRN roles as well as the population foci currently recognized by the Board for APRN licensure purposes. In the past, the Board recognized certain additional titles for APRN licensure. A list of these additional titles may be found in Board Rule 221.7. APRNs who were originally licensed with titles listed in Rule 221.7 are considered to be grandparented, and those APRNs must contin-

ue to use the title for which they were originally licensed.

RNs who are also licensed as APRNs are not prohibited from using the APRN designation when practicing in the RN role. That being said, Board Staff generally recommend that APRNs who are practicing in the RN role only use the RN credential to avoid role confusion. Use of APRN credentials while practicing in the RN role may imply to patients and colleagues that the nurse is practicing in the APRN role when, in fact, he/she is practicing in the RN role. This may put the APRN in a position of being asked or expected to practice beyond the RN scope when he/she does not have appropriate physician delegation or privileges to do so. If an APRN chooses to use the APRN designation when practicing in the RN role, the APRN must take precautions to ensure patients, family members, and members of the public are not confused about the role in which he/she is practicing. Complaints regarding the misleading use of a designation will be reviewed by the Board.

## Example 1

Johnathan Doe is a licensed vocational nurse. He has a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and a Long-Term Care Certification (CLTC) from the National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service. His insignia at work could read as John, LVN, if doing so would be compliant with facility policy. He may also choose to use his education and certification credentials and display his insignia as John, BS, LVN, CLTC. Board rules do not specify the order in which identifiers appear.

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### Example 2

Jane Doe has been issued the licensure designation of APRN in the role and population focus of psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner (commonly abbreviated as PMHNP). Jane could identify as Jane Doe, APRN, CNP, Psychiatric/Mental Health. Alternatively, she could utilize the credential awarded by her national certification, which identifies both the role and population focus in which she is licensed. The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) provides the only Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certification, and it utilizes the credential of **PMHNP**. Jane could display her designations as Jane Doe, APRN, PMHNP. If Jane elected to use the full certification credential awarded by ANCC, she could sign as Jane Doe, APRN, PMHNP-BC. The credential (-BC) is awarded by ANCC, and is not relevant to identify the role and population focus of the APRN so its use is voluntary.

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involves direct contact with children in the normal course of official duties or duties for which the license is required. The proposed amendments to §213.28 are necessary for consistency with these statutory directives.

The Board also proposed amendments to 22 TAC §213.33, relating to *Factors Considered for Imposition of Penalties/Sanctions*. The amendments are being proposed under the authority of the Occupations Code §301.151 and House Bill (HB) 1434, effective September 1, 2021.

HB 1434, enacted during the 87th Legislative Session, creates a new disciplinary cause of action for practitioners who conduct pelvic examinations on unconscious or anesthetized patients without proper informed consent, where the procedure is not within the standard scope of a scheduled procedure or diagnostic examination, where the examination is not necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of the patient's medical condition, or where the examination is not for the purpose of collecting evidence. The new disciplinary cause of action is located in the Occupations Code §301.452(b)(13). The proposed amendments

## In Memoriam

### Mary Louise Waddill

1931 –2021

Mary Louise Waddill, PhD, RN, former executive director of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON), passed away on June 11, 2021. Waddill served the BON as education secretary from 1973-1987 and as executive director from 1987-1995. She retired in 1995.

Through Waddill's leadership, many innovations were added to BON rules and policies. The "Professional Nursing Quality Assurance Act" that added mandatory reporting and nursing peer review provisions to the Nursing Practice Act was implemented. In addition, continuing education rules were established and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) gained limited prescriptive authority. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) awarded the BON the Member Board Award in 1990. Numerous Texas contributions were cited in support of this award including the many leadership roles held by agency staff, publications and research involvements, membership on state and national committees, and presentations on the role and responsibilities of NCSBN and the BON. In 1993, the BON underwent Sunset Review for the second time. This review resulted in the creation of informal proceedings to resolve complaints



against nurses; monitoring of nurse compliance with disciplinary orders; authority to establish rules relating to reporting of minor incidents; and authority to temporarily suspend licensure for imminent threats to public safety. The Health Professions Council was created to coordinate activities of the various health professions licensing boards and Waddill served as chair of the Council from 1994-1995. The computerized licensure examination (NCLEX-CAT) began testing in Texas in July 1993.

Before her roles on the BON, Waddill's career included faculty positions, pediatric staff nursing practice, and director of professional schools of nursing. She received her PhD in Nursing from the University of Texas School of Nursing in 1979. Waddill will be fondly remembered by her former colleagues at the BON. She has been described by her staff as an ethical leader, a teacher, and a skilled administrator with a keen sense of humor.

to the Board's Disciplinary Matrix (Matrix) are necessary for consistency with this statutory change.

Also proposed were amendments to 22 TAC §214.4(c) and §215.4(c), relating to *Approval*. At its July 2021 meeting, the BON voted to add the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation to its list of approved accreditation agencies, recognized by the United States Department of Education, and determined to have standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards for nursing education programs. The proposed

amendments to §214.4(c) and §215.4(c)(8) are necessary for consistency with these changes made by the Board.

The Board also proposed amendments to §215.2, relating to *Definitions*. The proposed amendments are necessary to correct a typographical error.

Earliest possible date of adoption for proposed amendments to §213.28, §213.33, §214.4, §215.2, and §215.4 is October 10, 2021.

# NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following nurses had disciplinary action taken against their licenses through a Board order containing public information about the nurse's disciplinary action. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Board's licensure verification system should be utilized for verification. You can obtain information about these disciplinary actions from the Board's website, [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov), using the verification look-up under Licensure or under the disciplinary action section of Discipline & Complaints. Under Licensure, select Verification, then click on the applicable license type; Discipline & Complaints, select Disciplinary Action, then select individual newsletter date. Additionally, you can send your written request to the Texas Board of Nursing, Enforcement Division, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701-3944.

Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date	Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date
Akpunku, Livina Chika	AP128478, RX 18251, RN 667998 & LVN 170128	Remedial Education with Fine	7/22/21	Counts, Kacie Marie	LVN 308992	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Almeda, Liliana	RN 758047	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21	Cunningham, Sheila Susan	RN 745468 & LVN 168924	Warning with Stipulations, Deferred	6/8/21
Anderson, Kaylee Nichole	LVN 346580	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	6/8/21	Daigle, Angela Marie	RN 770413 & LVN 153042	Voluntary Surrender	6/28/21
Anderson, Michael Jesse	RN 633555	Revoked	5/11/21	Davis, Laura Ann	LVN 126722	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21
Arrington, David R.	AP111100 & RN 613601	Voluntary Surrender	6/10/21	Day, John H.	AP112297 & RN 693304	Remedial Education, Deferred	5/12/21
Asonibe, Jude	RN 649152	Warning with Stipulations, Deferred	7/22/21	Deal, Leslie Carol	LVN 315371	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Autry, Dakota	RN 980702	Warning	6/8/21	Delatorre, Adriana	RN 972690	Probated Suspension	7/22/21
Avalos, Juan Angel	RN 734370	Enforced Suspension	6/1/21	Doss, Nora Jean	LVN 138392	Probated Suspension	6/8/21
Ballard, Heather Annlouise	LVN 343131	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Dykeman, Barbara Ann	RN 709968	Voluntary Surrender	5/25/21
Barrett, Sharon Elaine	RN 658004	Remedial Education, Deferred	5/3/21	Dzisah, Seth Kodjoe	RN 918079 & LVN 217317	Probated Suspension	5/11/21
Barron, Ashley Ryan	LVN 329670	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21	Eakes Jr, William Alfred	RN 717079	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Barton, Morgan Kaylynn	RN 924930	Remedial Education	6/10/21	Eckles, Nathan Ryan	RN 942228	Probated Suspension	7/22/21
Bass, Carrie Lee	RN 774482	Enforced Suspension	7/9/21	Eddie, Mistie L.	LVN 219531	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Bautista, Taylor Nicole	RN 841592	Remedial Education	6/30/21	Edwards, Valerie Ann	LVN 175940	Revoked	6/8/21
Bell, Herbert Levence	RN 854753	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21	Ejiofor, Amala	RN 932487 & LVN 314022	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21
Bernal, Jr., Jose Angel	RN 866676	Limited License	7/22/21	Ellis, Jeanie Nichole	LVN 338013	Voluntary Surrender	5/3/21
Bernstein, Brittany Allyse	RN 900000	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21	Epperson, Sharon Carlene	RN 745965	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21
Berry, Janice G.	RN 630506 & LVN 120734	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Evans, Donna Defoor	LVN 112677	Voluntary Surrender	7/16/21
Biggers, Lawton Daley	RN 879149 & LVN 322087	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21	Everett, Leslie L.	AP140379, RX 29218 & RN 509488	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Blundell, Zachary Thomas	RN 926455	Enforced Suspension	5/11/21	Fallahi, Daniel Ashkan	LVN 307035	Revoked	5/11/21
Boyd, Kaelyn Huneycutt	RN 855582	Warning with Fine	7/22/21	Farmer, Shannon Desiree Marie	LVN 348887	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Bradley, Nicole Susan	RN 764025	Enforced Suspension	6/8/21	Farrell, Angela Kay	LVN 210107	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Brandt, Stephanie Ann	RN 667118	Voluntary Surrender	6/25/21	Fay, Melinda Lynn	RN 794653	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Bravo, Oliver Daleno	RN 874193	Probated Suspension	6/8/21	Field, Paula Mckinnon	RN 856889	Warning with Stipulations, Deferred	6/8/21
Brazzell, Melanie Elaine	RN 686948	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Fischer, Morgan Whitney	RN 858836	Enforced Suspension	6/30/21
Briere, Jose Hernandez	LVN 166848	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21	Fleitz, Christine Marie	RN 968215	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Briscoe, Alicia Marie	LVN 338066	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	6/8/21	Flores, Susan	RN 554386 & LVN 101957	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Bryant, Willie Mae	LVN 227032	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21	Forrest, Iris Kathleen	LVN 133088	Revoked	5/11/21
Buley, Rachelle Rae	RN 607309	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Foster, Terri Glynda	LVN 339996	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Burns, Valencia Von	LVN 171018	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21	Franco, Elia Elsa	LVN 319559	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21
Burton, Elizabeth Delois	LVN 333531	Probated Suspension	7/22/21	Franklin, Adrian	RN 910197 & LVN 329493	Probated Suspension	5/11/21
Burton, Tasha Herron	LVN 186861	Remedial Education with Fine	4/23/21	Franklin, Tracy N.	RN 624428	Probated Suspension	7/22/21
Byrd, Joann Violet	RN 745586 & LVN 205550	Enforced Suspension	5/26/21	Freeman, Tonia Davis	LVN 327012	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21
Cabrera, Ami Jo	RN 703193	Remedial Education with Fine	6/7/21	Fudge, Twanna Janay	LVN 230846	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Camacho, Blanca Zulema	RN 739118	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Garcia, Alejandro David	LVN 219535	Warning with Fine	6/8/21
Cannon, Katrina Marie	LVN 147167	Revoked	6/8/21	Garcia, Crystal Izzy	LVN 346450	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Castille, Bryan Andrew	RN 669155	Voluntary Surrender	7/29/21	Garner, Linda Gail	RN 820951 & LVN 156078	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Cervantes, Brenda	LVN 344532	Voluntary Surrender	6/21/21	Garth, Cynthia	RN 653205 & LVN 140059	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21
Cisneros, Jimmy Paul	RN 695196	Revoked	5/11/21	Gauthier, Faith Rebekkah	RN 814871	Remedial Education	5/25/21
Cogswell, Wilma	RN 719839	Remedial Education	7/9/21	Geimer, Jeannine Marie	RN 905272	Probated Suspension	6/8/21
Collier, Sharon D.	RN 532971 & LVN 73668	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21	Gerber, Lula Carol	LVN 307760	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	6/8/21
Conerly, Noshia Tiki	RN 723278	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21	Gibbon, Jennifer Nichole	RN 674734	Voluntary Surrender	7/5/21
Cooper-Nurse, Krista	RN 957371	Remedial Education	7/7/21	Gipson, Kezia Marie	AP127355, RX 17262 & RN 920223	Remedial Education, Deferred	5/25/21
Copeland, Alisha Tanae	RN 886774 & LVN 300158	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21	Golden, Anna Marie	RN 874426 & LVN 229918	Remedial Education	6/16/21
Cortez, Yolanda Isabel	RN 885551 & LVN 312648	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21				

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Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date	Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date
Gollner, Danielle Elise	RN 862483	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21	Lemoine, Leslie R.	RN 881329 & LVN 320239	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21
Gonder, Dana Lynnette	LVN 228100	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Leonard, John David	RN 665143	Voluntary Surrender	5/12/21
Gonzalez, Mario Sainz	LVN 178551	Enforced Suspension	7/19/21	Lichtenberger, Elizabeth Ashley	LVN 323917	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21
Grady, Taquisha Lavette	LVN 332742	Probated Suspension	7/22/21	Lopez, Amberlie Skye	RN 960486	Revoked	6/8/21
Gray, James Howard	RN 986263	Enforced Suspension	6/17/21	Lopez, Tarifa Rel	LVN 310766	Probated Suspension	7/22/21
Gregory, Julie Rae	RN 956306	Remedial Education	5/7/21	Lott, Lorrie Ann	LVN 346943	Revoked	5/11/21
Guerra, Jannie Sanchez	RN 670610 & LVN 63311	Voluntary Surrender	6/9/21	Louisjeune, Jacquesblondel	RN 777762	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Guerrero, Debra E.	LVN 175337	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21	Lowe, Janice	RN 648275 & LVN 62717	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Gyasi, Stephen Debrah	LVN 324252	Remedial Education, Deferred	7/26/21	Ludig, Melanie Joan	RN 769407	Enforced Suspension	7/22/21
Hamd, Fereshteh	RN 926413	Remedial Education	5/26/21	Mahlamvana, Sithandiwe	RN 873302 & LVN 209027	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Hamilton, Christine Marie	RN 854719 & LVN 300567	Revoked	6/8/21	Maples, Jessica Colleen	RN 689766	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21
Hamilton, Monica Antwinette	LVN 207845	Remedial Education	6/23/21	Maropis, Anne Maggie	RN 921528	Remedial Education	6/29/21
Harbin, Brandi Lynn	LVN 211146	Enforced Suspension	6/8/21	Marquez, Katy	RN 737948 & LVN 176119	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Hardman, Jonathan David	LVN 333994	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Martin, Marsha Lynn	RN 863159 & LVN 209805	Remedial Education	6/9/21
Harrison, Jr., Warren	RN 807397	Voluntary Surrender	7/6/21	Martinez, Jennifer Robin	RN 681770	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Harvill, Cheryl Lynn	RN 645798	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21	Martiny, Eugene Michael	LVN 224878	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Hayden, Kim Marie	RN 866424	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21	Mata, Joshua M.	LVN 350136	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Heathman, Jennen Lee	AP118718, RX 9979 & RN 646173	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21	Mayon, Renell	LVN 318409	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Hedtke, Carol Jean	AP114867, RX 6672 & RN 675701	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Mcbride, Jennifer Anne	RN 849867	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Helmick, Maryna Oleksandrivna	RN 864647 & LVN 227256	Remedial Education, Deferred	7/28/21	McCoy, Melissa Carolyn	RN 802081 & LVN 187693	Probated Suspension	6/8/21
Herman, Burney	RN 648906	Fine	5/5/21	McKee, Amanda Gail	LVN 171093	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Hernandez, Courtney	RN 802420 & LVN 191064	Revoked	7/22/21	McNeely, Jenny Lynn	RN 762760	Voluntary Surrender	6/28/21
Herring, Rachel Blair	RN 769755	Revoked	6/8/21	Mekika, Ntosengeh Simon	RN 927827	Remedial Education	6/30/21
Hill Odewumi, Andrel Lynette	LVN 314088	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Mendoza, Katrina Amanda	RN 788370	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	6/8/21
Holub, Ramona Gaytan	RN 663909 & LVN 159251	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21	Meyer, Luann B.	AP103543, RX 3271 & RN 525538	Remedial Education	6/21/21
Homayounkhhah, Amir Ali	RN 868098	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21	Miller, Lacora Shaunte	LVN 301031	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21
Horton, Matthew Gene	LVN 223910	Reprimand with Fine	6/8/21	Miller, Yun-He Jin	LVN 330217	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21
Howard, Jennifer Marie	RN 943846	Remedial Education	5/21/21	Montanez, Heather Renee Mollieae	LVN 322515	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Hudson, Laura Diane	LVN 122622	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21	Moore, Karrienne Lyn	AP1044876 & PTP NC RN 318397	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Huff, Theresa L.	RN 788931	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21	Moore, Quincy Bernard	LVN 209568	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Hughes, Amanda Leann	LVN 343524	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Moreno, Ricardo	LVN 121722	Enforced Suspension	6/8/21
January, Phyllis N.	RN 622798	Revoked	6/8/21	Morris, Cynthia Ann	RN 825780	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Jenkins, Felisa Ann	LVN 197141	Probated Suspension	6/8/21	Moss, Destiny Sarai	LVN 333458	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Johnson, Miakka Shanelle	RN 846620	Enforced Suspension	6/30/21	Munn, Elaine Nicola	RN 769840 & LVN 200165	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Jones, Ada Obignuju	RN 975318	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21	Myers, Paul	AP112978 & RN 652399	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Jones, Ladonna Renee	AP137427, RX 26314 & RN 847220	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21	Nacianseno, Nallely	RN 882649	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Jones, Lisa Michelle	RN 804444	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21	Ndah, Akwi Noela	RN 964986	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Jones, Tami A.	RN 533734	Remedial Education, Deferred	6/17/21	Ngombo, Lenah Eva	RN 878967	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Kaczmarek, Samuel Alexander	LVN 228288	Revoked	6/8/21	Nguyen, Nick Cong	AP120371, RX 1131 & RN 777198	Remedial Education	5/17/21
King, Dena E.	LVN 318741	Voluntary Surrender	7/14/21	Nkwelle, Beatrice Ngonde	AP119969, RX 11027 & RN 729636	Probated Suspension	5/11/21
Kirorei, Seleina	AP123133, RX 13661, RN 738858 & LVN 200145	Remedial Education, Deferred	5/17/21	Norwood, Keia	LVN 349108	Revoked	5/11/21
Kline, Jennifer Anne	RN 829594	Revoked	6/8/21	O'Brien, Christina Elise	LVN 222722	Revoked	5/11/21
Knighton, Kala Elizabeth	LVN 210028	Enforced Suspension	6/14/21	Oduwayo, Cordelia Moyinoluwa	AP138725, RX 27534 & RN 797731	Remedial Education, Deferred	5/3/21
Langley, Rebecca Lynne	RN 595505	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	6/8/21	Ogenche, Geoffrey Oriango	LVN 331522	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Lassiter, Whitney	LVN 304379	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21	Olaide, Mojisola H.	LVN 319704	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Lefang, Antonina Sergiivna	RN 984418 & LVN 304165	Probated Suspension	6/8/21	Olvera, Esther Ruth	LVN 1019710	Voluntary Surrender	6/16/21
Leggett, Karen Ann	LVN 148151	Enforced Suspension	7/22/21	Otalor, Patricia Onyema	RN 610785	Probated Suspension	7/22/21
Lejeune, Salena Kaye	LVN 314640	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	6/8/21	Otiemo, Beatrice Akoth	RN 806406	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
				Papanikolaou, Caroline	RN 965189	Remedial Education	5/25/21

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Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date
Pardue, Wayne Monroe	LVN 314680	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21
Paulose, Salomy E.	RN 853355	Remedial Education	6/28/21
Pennell, Tiffany Janae	RN 714538	Revoked	7/22/21
Peteete, Tiffany Anne	RN 814693	Remedial Education	6/25/21
Petty, Rhiannon M.	RN 689242 & LVN 163676	Revoked	5/20/21
Phillips, Britton Travis	RN 820676 & LVN 224081	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Porceng, Alyson	RN 1046453 & LVN 334779	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	6/8/21
Punzalan, Merrydaile Pagulayan	RN 809534	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Rambert-Hairston, Devon	AP137735	Revoked	10/14/20
Ramey, Becky Lynn	LVN 226826	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Ramirez, Jacqueline	LVN 343766	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21
Ramon, Sandy J.	RN 757962	Probated Suspension	7/22/21
Reddy, Trivikram	RN 782034	Revoked	6/10/21
Ridgway, Blake Randall	AP133876, RX 23042 & RN 826001	Enforced Suspension	7/22/21
Roberts, Tammy S.	RN 626013	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Robin, Martha De Nell	LVN 222599	Limited License	5/11/21
Rodgers, Samuel Allen	RN 798296	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21
Rodriguez, Jesus	LVN 328407	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21
Romans, Wesley	RN 954266 & LVN 322661	Reprimand with Stipulations	5/11/21
Rosales, Leslie Marie	RN 911047	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Rose, Tracey Jo	RN 955030	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Ross, Crystal Martin	RN 706947	Limited License	5/11/21
Ruscitti, Elizabeth Ann	RN 654624	Remedial Education with Fine, Deferred	6/21/21
Russwurm, Elizabeth Marie	LVN 338245	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	6/8/21
Salazar, Nadia	LVN 324643	Remedial Education	6/2/21
Salmi, Bayrem	RN 951347	Voluntary Surrender	6/22/21
Schwarz, Tamara Joy	AP134034 & RN 916512	Voluntary Surrender	7/22/21
Scott, Alexis Wendie	LVN 310145	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Scruggs, Jessica	LVN 351095	Remedial Education	6/2/21
Segarra, Jennifer	RN 875861 & LVN 190249	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Shipp, Tiffany R.	RN 579955	Remedial Education with Fine	7/12/21
Smith, Erin Kathleen	RN 923989	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Smith, Loraine Evangelynn	RN 704201	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Smith, Ronald J.	RN 617730 & LVN 142982	Enforced Suspension	6/8/21
Strain, Danielle Quiniece	RN 895845	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Stull, Brandi	AP137896, RX 26735 & RN 751566	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Tafolla, America	RN 654492	Remedial Education with Fine	5/25/21
Tanner, Debra	RN 657690	Remedial Education	7/12/21
Teke, Acha Clifford	RN 1020121	Warning with Fine	7/22/21
Thibodaux, Laura P.	RN 641140	Remedial Education with Fine	5/25/21
Thompson, Jonathan Earl	RN 946542	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Thompson, Shaniqua Tennille	LVN 187419	Voluntary Surrender	7/2/21
Thompson, William David	RN 762151	Enforced Suspension	6/30/21
Throckmorton, Deborah	RN 755572 & LVN 168670	Probated Suspension	5/11/21
Thurman, Sherri Renee	LVN 226806	Voluntary Surrender	6/21/21
Tiemeyer, Patrick	RN 810219	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	5/11/21
Tomeldan, Lydia Esguerra	RN 455643	Voluntary Surrender	7/2/21
Tran, Tiffany	RN 893186	Remedial Education	6/16/21
Tucker, Angela Kay	RN 679696	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	7/22/21

Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date
Ukpong, Roseline Archibong	RN 874781 & LVN 161079	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Valdez, Rosaiselda	RN 666733 & LVN 150367	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Valdez, Victor Manuel	RN 602259	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Vermillion, Dorothy Sloan	LVN 130973	Voluntary Surrender	6/7/21
Wagstaff, Tammy Sue	RN 606681	Voluntary Surrender	6/28/21
Walker, Evelyn Marie	RN 693690 & LVN 108957	Voluntary Surrender	5/28/21
Walker, Troydrick Lashane	LVN 350113	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Walton, Donna Kay	LVN 166274	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Warford, Erica	LVN 300444	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Warren, Valangsta Nola	LVN 109023	Revoked	5/11/21
Webb, Abigail Rose	LVN 223970	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Webb, Cassi Louise	RN 774215	Limited License	6/8/21
Wendt, Peggy Jeanne	RN 233698	Voluntary Surrender	6/1/21
Weyel, Tiffany L.	LVN 201949	Voluntary Surrender	5/18/21
Wikina, Susan Mumbi	RN 933571	Reprimand with Stipulations	6/8/21
Wilcox, Roberta Joyce	RN 564716 & LVN 110509	Warning with Stipulations	5/11/21
Wilkins, Carrie Elaine	RN 858233	Limited License	5/11/21
Williams, Stacy Ann	LVN 203273	Revoked	5/11/21
Willingham, Weldon James Lewis	RN 849375	Remedial Education	6/15/21
Wilson, Lisa Ann	RN 742094	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Winston, Brandy Lynn	LVN 189264	Warning with Stipulations	7/22/21
Wohlers, Debra Slack	AP122433, RX 13064 & RN 824378	Warning with Stipulations, Deferred	6/8/21
Woodbury, Julie Ann	AP115181, RX 7069 & RN 663926	Reprimand with Stipulations	7/22/21
Wright, Susan A.	RN 620688 & LVN 148628	Warning with Stipulations	6/8/21
Young, Ricky Don	RN 765065	Enforced Suspension	7/26/21
Zolfaghari, Joseph Seyed	RN 812147 & LVN 229549	Probated Suspension	7/22/21

## Abbreviations in the Notice of Disciplinary Action Section

**PTP** Privilege to Practice in Texas, also known as Nurse Licensure Compact Privilege, associated with the indicated state and license. States are abbreviated using the official two letter state abbreviations of the United States Postal System.

**RX** Prescription Authorization

## Statistical information

The 262 disciplinary actions reported in this newsletter represent only 0.057% of nurses who are currently licensed to practice in the State of Texas.

As of August 20, 2021, 99.66% of current Registered Nurses and 99.34% of current Licensed Vocational Nurses were without public discipline according to Board records.



## Fall Information Sessions Planned for TPAPN Peer Support Partners

### Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN)

The Peer Support Partner is a volunteer nurse who provides peer support to nurses participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). Information sessions are currently offered monthly by TPAPN so you can learn more about the Peer Support Partner role to see if this is for you. The next information sessions are scheduled for: October 19, November 16, and December 14, 2021.

In order to become a Peer Support Partner, attendance is required at a Peer Support Partner Workshop. This workshop is designed to provide information to Peer Support Partners.

The Peer Support Partner Workshop includes an overview of TPAPN, information regarding the peer support model and role, motivational interviewing techniques, trauma informed care, mental health support, person centered care, and strategies for working with TPAPN participants. The

next Peer Support Partner Workshop is scheduled for November 12, 2021.

To learn more about TPAPN or Peer Support Partners, please visit the TPAPN website: [www.tpapn.org](http://www.tpapn.org). If you are ready to help another nurse, there is an application form accessible on the TPAPN website (fill out and submit to TPAPN). The application includes responsibilities and guidelines for the Peer Support Partner, including the requirement to attend the TPAPN Peer Support Partner Workshop.

## Beware of Scammers Using Falsified Documents



The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) has been notified of attempted scams directed at nurses where scammers use falsified BON and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) documents to intimidate victims in an effort to have money sent to bank accounts outside of the United States. Methods used by the scammers often include:

- making an allegation against the nurse’s license, usually involving prescriptive authority;
- threatening action against the nurse’s license(s) unless the nurse responds immediately;
- sending multiple fake documents from the BON, DEA, or both agencies;
- requesting that the nurse send a large amount of money as a “security bond” via a wire transfer to an international bank account; and

- requiring the nurse to abide by a “protocol” or other requirements where the nurse must remain silent about the investigation or they will face further consequences or penalties.

Advanced practice registered nurses with National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers have been targeted frequently using one or more elements of this scam. Scammers will often inform the nurse that some type of incident occurred where the nurse’s NPI number was used, illegal prescriptions were “reported”, and the agencies alleged to be looking into the incident will keep the investigation quiet if the nurse sends money (cash or wire transfer) or agrees to meet at a neutral location to discuss the situation further.

Nurses contacted by such an individual should:

- Report the attempted fraud to the Office of the Inspector General

(OIG) for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, go to <https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/index.asp>, and

- Contact the Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) for the Attorney General of Texas. Visit <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/phone-mail-and-fax-scams/how-spot-and-report-phone-scams> for more information on phone scams and to file an Online Consumer Complaint.

The BON routinely uses certified and regular mail to conduct investigations and always includes the name and contact information of the investigator, including the investigator’s email address and direct dial phone number. **The BON never asks for or requires funds to be sent or submitted by wire or bank transfer.**

# Nurse Contracting Opportunity

Serve as an Expert Witness for the Texas Board of Nursing



Texas Board of Nursing (Board) Staff is seeking to contract with qualified physicians and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who desire to support the Board's mission to protect and promote the welfare of the people of Texas by ensuring that each person holding a license as a nurse in the State of Texas is competent to practice safely.

Board Staff is seeking APRNs who specialize in mental health/psychiatry, labor and delivery, emergency room care, school nursing, correctional health, and neonatal care to serve as experts for the

Board, or physicians with similar specialties who serve as delegating physicians. The expert will provide consulting services and/or testimony in various disciplinary proceedings. The expert's services may include: reviewing records; preparing an expert report; and/or providing deposition, trial, or hearing testimony. Compensation will be based on the expert's qualifications and experience.

If interested, please contact Board Attorney April Liwanag via email at: [April.Liwanag@bon.texas.gov](mailto:April.Liwanag@bon.texas.gov).

## Free CE Courses offered by NCSBN

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension currently offers two free continuing education courses pertaining to substance use disorder in nursing:

- 1) Understanding Substance Use Disorder in Nursing; and
- 2) Nurse Manager Guidelines for Substance Use Disorder.

Both online courses are self-paced and can be accessed by visiting the NCSBN Learning Extension Course Catalog at: <https://learningext.com>



## Texas Board of Nursing Meeting Schedule

### 2021 Board Meeting Dates

**October 21-22**

### 2021 Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee Meeting Dates

**November 9**

**December 14**

All Board and Eligibility & Disciplinary Committee Meetings will be held in Austin at the William P. Hobby Building located at 333 Guadalupe, Austin, Texas, 78701.

\* - Due to the COVID-19 Virus, the Board meeting scheduled for October 21-22, 2021 may be conducted to include virtual participation. Meeting access information will be posted at [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov)

## Board of Nursing Contact Information

MAIN NUMBER.....	(512) 305-7400
FAX.....	(512) 305-7401
-- 24-hour Access	
-- License Verification	
-- General Information	
ENFORCEMENT.....	(512) 305-6838
-- Complaint and Disciplinary Action Inquiries	
-- Violations of NPA and Rules and Regulations	
-- Monitoring of Disciplined RNs and LVNs	
OPERATIONS	
CUSTOMER SERVICE.....	(512) 305-6809
-- License Renewals, Endorsement, Examination, or Continuing Education for Nurses.....	<a href="mailto:webmaster@bon.texas.gov">webmaster@bon.texas.gov</a>
SALES OF LISTS.....	(512) 305-6848
-- Electronic Nurse Files	
-- Publications	
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL NURSING	
ADVANCED PRACTICE.....	(512) 305-6843
-- APRN Application and Prescriptive Authority Procedures.....	<a href="mailto:aprn@bon.texas.gov">aprn@bon.texas.gov</a>
NURSING EDUCATION.....	(512) 305-6816
NURSING PRACTICE.....	(512) 305-6802
-- Nursing Practice Issues	
-- Legislation	
-- Workshop Information.....	(512) 305-6844
-- Workshop e-mail inquiries.....	<a href="mailto:workshops@bon.texas.gov">workshops@bon.texas.gov</a>
NEWSLETTER INFO.....	(512) 305-6842
-- WEB Address.....	<a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov">www.bon.texas.gov</a>
-- Refer e-mail inquiries to:.....	<a href="mailto:webmaster@bon.texas.gov">webmaster@bon.texas.gov</a>



Texas Board of Nursing  
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Austin, Texas 78701-3944



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The purpose of the *Texas Board of Nursing Bulletin* is to disseminate information to nurses licensed by the State of Texas, their employers, health care providers, and the public concerning laws and regulations established by the Texas Board of Nursing related to the safe and legal practice of nursing. The *Texas Board of Nursing Bulletin* provides information on current issues and trends in nursing regulation, status of nursing education programs, information regarding licensure and nursing practice, and disciplinary action taken against licensees who violated the Nursing Practice Act or Board Rules and Regulations.

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#### Office Hours and Location

The office of the Texas Board of Nursing is located in the William P. Hobby Building, located at the corner of 4th and Guadalupe in downtown Austin. The mailing address is: 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701-3944. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for designated holidays. At this time the Board's office is closed to visitors. If you need to reach the Board, please call (512) 305-7400 or send an email to: [webmaster@bon.texas.gov](mailto:webmaster@bon.texas.gov)

The Texas Board of Nursing is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in employment or in the provision of services, programs, or activities.

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## Nursing Delegation: Distribution of the Workload\*\*

This course provides all licensed nurses with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to nursing delegation in Texas, providing nurses with 2.0 Continuing Nursing Education contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.

## Nursing Peer Review: Safe Harbor Nursing Peer Review and Whistleblower Protections

The purpose of this online continuing education offering is to provide all licensed nurses with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to Safe Harbor Nursing Peer Review and Whistleblower Protections in Texas. This course is approved for 1.3 CNE contact hours. Cost \$25.00.

## Nursing Peer Review: Incident-Based Nursing Peer Review and the Minor Incident Rule

The purpose of this online continuing education offering is to provide all licensed nurses with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to Incident-Based Nursing Peer Review and the Minor Incident Rule in Texas. This course is approved for 1.6 CNE contact hours. Cost \$25.00.

## BON Lifelong Learning Account

Depending on the continuing education course, you may be required to log into your individual account to complete follow-up learning activities and/or course evaluations after a workshop, webinar, or online course in order to receive your CNE certificate of completion.

Your BON Lifelong Learning Account will also contain links for workshop handouts, any required forms, post-activity certificates of completion, and other helpful resources for each registered activity. If questions arise during your registration or during an online learning course, there are specific Help links throughout the process to direct you to the dedicated Online Learning Help Desk.

Secure online payments are completed using major credit cards, bank cards (those with Visa or MasterCard logos), or online checks. Registration payments submitted directly to the Board will be returned and the registration process will be delayed. Employers, organizations, or groups can complete payment for multiple registrants with the purchase of a bulk voucher. The bulk voucher system will send the voucher information to the group coordinator for distribution to individual registrants. Each individual will use the voucher as the form of payment during her/his own online registration.

## BON Continuing Competency Offerings Address Nursing Jurisprudence and Ethics Requirement

In 2013, the 83rd Regular Texas Legislative Session passed a law that specified continuing education requirements for all nurses. Senate Bill (SB) 1058 requires nurses to complete at least two hours of continuing education related to nursing jurisprudence and ethics before the end of every third two-year licensing period. The BON has two continuing education offerings which meet the requirement: the workshop titled, "Protecting Your Patients & Your Practice, Nursing Jurisprudence & Ethics", and the interactive online course titled, "Nursing Regulations for Safe Practice". For more information about BON continuing competency requirements, visit the Board's website, click on **Laws and Rules**, then **Rules and Regulations**, and then **Chapter 216**.

**Please Note:** Workshop participants more than 10 minutes late or who leave prior to the end of the workshop will not receive CNE credit or meet BON stipulations.

Visit the BON CNE Catalog at <https://www.bon.texas.gov/catalog/> for the latest information.



Texas Board of Nursing  
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460  
Austin, TX 78701

## Texas Board of Nursing

### Learning Opportunities: 2021



## Continuing Competency Workshops and Online Educational Offerings

The Texas Board of Nursing is excited to offer learning opportunities for 2021. Nurses can explore a variety of topics designed to provide the most current information to support safe nursing practice. Space is limited, early registration is recommended.





## 2021 Workshops

### **Protecting Your Patients & Your Practice, Nursing Jurisprudence & Ethics** \*\*#+>

*These virtual workshops have been approved for 7.5 contact hours of CNE.*

### **November 9, 2021 (Tuesday)**

**Note:** *Computer speakers are REQUIRED for all virtual workshops. No cash accepted for payment. Early registration is encouraged.*

**Cost:** *Virtual workshop preregistration \$79.00.*

**Time:** *8:00 am to 3:30 pm Central Standard Time (CST) for virtual workshops.*

**Note:** Due to COVID-19, BON workshops have transitioned to virtual delivery as needed for the safety of participants. Visit the BON CNE Catalog at <https://www.bon.texas.gov/catalog/> for the latest information.

## How to Register

You can register for all Board of Nursing (BON) educational offerings--online courses and workshops--through the BON CNE Course Catalog. To register for a BON workshop or online course, please visit our website at [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov) and select the CNE Course Catalog icon. You will receive a purchase confirmation and event reminders via your email address leading up to the scheduled activity and for post activity reminders in order to help you access your CNE Certificate of Completion. Instructions and help for confirming that your workstation is compatible with the online process are provided for each event. All of the BON CNE activities include online components that must be completed in conjunction with the activity in order to receive completion credit and certificates. When you register online, a BON Lifelong Learning Account is created that will be your home for accessing handouts, evaluations, and certificates.

### Legend

- \*\* This continuing nursing education offering was approved by the Texas Board of Nursing. The Texas Board of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing education by the Alabama Board of Nursing, ABNP1509, expiration date July 28, 2024.
- # This offering meets the 2-hour CNE requirement for nursing jurisprudence and ethics established during the 2013 Legislative Session.
- + This offering satisfies the nursing jurisprudence and ethics requirement for Board orders.
- @ This course does not award CNE contact hours.
- > The Authors, Speakers/Presenters, Content Reviewers and Experts declare that there are no conflicts of interest.



## Interactive Online Learning

### **Nursing Regulations for Safe Practice** \*\*#

This interactive online CNE course is easy to access on any schedule. Approved for 2.8 contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.

### **Prescriptive Authority for APRNs** \*\*

This course provides information on the current laws and regulations governing prescriptive authority in the State of Texas. The course is designed to help the learner develop a greater understanding of delegation of prescriptive authority to Texas APRNs and requirements that must be met for APRNs to be in compliance with Texas laws and BON rules. Approved for 1.2 contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.

### **Documentation: So Let It Be Said...In Writing That Is** \*\*

The purpose of this online continuing education activity is to provide all licensed nurses with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to nursing documentation in Texas. Approved for 1.4 contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.

### **Texas Online Nursing Jurisprudence Exam Prep Course** @

The BON has developed a Nursing Jurisprudence Exam Prep Course that offers interactive instruction on the subject areas covered on the Nursing Jurisprudence Exam (NJE). The prep course is delivered online with the ability to bookmark "Hot Topics" to review later. The course, complete with training on how to locate information on the BON website, also includes access to printable resources and practice questions that will be useful, not only for NJE preparation but also for your future nursing practice. Cost: \$25.00.

### **Determining APRN Scope of Practice** \*\*

The purpose of this online continuing education activity is to provide advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to the advanced practice scope of practice in Texas. Approved for 1.4 contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.