

## What is the PRN?

You may have a colleague who is no longer able to practice with reasonable skill and safety because of impairment from drugs, alcohol or a mental health disorder. Or you, yourself, may be a nurse suffering from one of these primary illnesses.

The Program for Recovering Nurses (PRN), an alternative to disciplinary action administered by the Board of Nursing, channels impaired nurses into treatment and rehabilitation and monitors their return to safe, effective practice while essentially sparing their nursing license. Do the right thing for you, your colleague, and most importantly, your patients, by contacting the PRN. Call this confidential program at 1/800-386-1695 or visit them on-line at:

[www.southworthassociates.net](http://www.southworthassociates.net).

## Can I Continue to Practice if I am Taking Prescription Medications?

Should you continue to practice while taking prescribed medications? Should you refuse an assignment to work overtime or extra shifts? Should you retire because you have reached the age? In response to these questions from nurses and employers, the Board of Nursing has adopted a Position paper on, "Safety to Practice" to provide direction to assist nurses and their employers in addressing these concerns.

Licensed nurses are accountable for assuring that their actions and behaviors meet the standards and demands of their jobs. This requires a continual process of evaluation and assessment in order to assure fitness to practice and competence to safely perform the functions for which they have accepted responsibility. Nurses who practice while unfit may place patients at risk and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board. If you have a concern about your safety to practice, review the position paper on the Board of Nursing web site or call the Board office.

## What is the Nurse Licensure Compact?

The following states have adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact—an Agreement that grants RNs and LPNs licensed in a Compact member state, the privilege to practice in other party states.

Arizona	Arkansas	Delaware
<b>Idaho</b>	Iowa	Maine
Maryland	Mississippi	Nebraska
New Hampshire	New Mexico	North Carolina
North Dakota	South Carolina	South Dakota
Tennessee	Texas	Utah
Virginia	Wisconsin	

Check [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org) to learn more about the Nurse Licensure Compact.

The Compact allows a nurse to hold one license (in his or her state of residence) and grants the privilege to practice in other Compact states, as long as that nurse acknowledges that he/she is subject to each state's practice laws and discipline. A nurse residing in a Compact state may hold only one Compact state license at any time. Under the Compact, practice across state lines is allowed, whether physical or electronic. A nurse who is under discipline or monitoring conditions may be restricted from practice in party states.

## NEWS FROM IDAHO

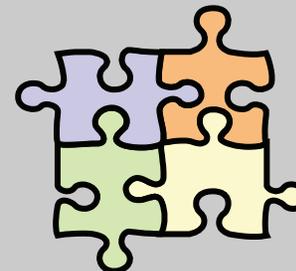
Did you know that the Board of Nursing's Newsletter is available on-line? Access the Board's home page at:

[www2.state.id.us/ibn](http://www2.state.id.us/ibn) and select "Publications"

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# Licensed Practical Nurse FREQUENTLY ASKED

2006-2008



Idaho Board of Nursing

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## How can I increase my nursing knowledge without having to travel?

Increase your nursing knowledge: Learn on line. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) offers a variety of courses to increase nursing knowledge. Now you can update your knowledge and earn continuing education credits at the same time

Do you understand to whom and what you can delegate? What is your responsibility when delegating? NCSBN has an online course that outlines the step-by-step approach to help you master delegation skills.

Unsure about your knowledge of the Idaho Nursing Practice Act? NCSBN in conjunction with the Idaho Board of Nursing has developed an on-line course, which allows you to learn about the law and rules that govern nursing practice and nursing education.

Other course offerings by NCSBN include:

Respecting Professional Boundaries

Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know

Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care

Ethics of Nursing Practice

Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses

Medication Errors: Detection and Prevention

The fees for classes range from \$12 to \$41. Follow these steps to participate (must have a credit card and valid e-mail address:

Go to [www.learningext.com](http://www.learningext.com)

Click on the “new user click here” link

Complete the registration form

In the “registrar “ section, select the course

Complete payment information with a credit card

## What are the most frequently-asked questions received by the Board?

### *Can you answer these questions?*

- How do I determine LPN scope of practice?
- Can LPN’s work in Home Health?
- Can LPN’s administer IV medications through central lines and/or by IV push?

*Answers to the above questions can be found by using the Decision-Making Model and referring to the scope of practice for RN’s and LPN’s in the Administrative Rules of the Board. (IDAPA 23.01.01.400- 460)*

*The Delegation-Model provides questions to be considered:*

- *Is the task prohibited by the Nursing Practice Act or Administrative Rules?*
- *Was the task taught as part of the LPN’s educational program?*
- *Is the LPN competent to perform the task?*
- *Does the task exceed facility policies and procedures and/or job descriptions?*
- *Is the act consistent with nationally recognized standards of practice?*
- *Is performance of the act within the accepted standard of care that would be provided in a similar situation by a reasonable and prudent nurse?*

*The BON Rules define scope:*

- *The rules defining the practice of RN’s and LPN’s do not address IV/Central Line or IV push scope of practice, nor do they state whether an LPN can work in Home Health. The Decision-Making Model provides the format for determining the answer for each specific LPN and patient situation.*

Initial assessments used to determine nursing diagnoses and plans of care are the role of the RN.

- *The LPN functions in a dependent role and participates in the development of the Plan of Care.*
- *The Rules apply to all practice settings.*
- *Before delegating to the LPN, the RN must consider the stability of the patient and environment, and the degree of supervision by an RN that will be provided for the LPN.*

Only after all of the above have been considered, will you be able to answer the Top 3 Questions and the answers will not always be the same. Each LPN and each patient bring different competencies and issues with them each time these questions are asked.

## How can my friend who has been out of nursing return to active practice?

Do you know someone who has let their license lapse and has been “Out of Practice” but would now like to return to active nursing?

If they have been absent from practice between 3-10 years, the nurse must:

- Obtain a temporary license, and
- Work under registered nurse supervision for a minimum of 80 hours.

After the 80 hours is completed have their supervisor submit to the Board a written performance evaluation regarding currency of knowledge and safe practice.

If they have been out of practice between 11 –15 years, the nurse must:

- Obtain a temporary license, and
- Work under registered nurse supervision for a minimum of 120 hours.
- Successfully complete a refresher program acceptable to the Board, and
- Attend in-service/continuing education programs and submit a written report to the Board

After the 120 hours is completed have their supervisor submit to the BON a written performance evaluation regarding currency of knowledge and safe practice.

Applicants who have been out of practice between 16 – 20 years must complete an organized nurse refresher program or obtain an organized content and skills update approved by the Board before a conditional temporary license may be issued.

Nurses who have not practiced in over 20 years should contact the Board for direction.

The Idaho Alliance of Leaders in Nursing offers a Board-approved refresher program for LPNs who wish to return to active practice, reactivate a license or update their knowledge and become more confident in providing nursing care. The course contains self-study modules and a clinical preceptorship. To find out more about this course contact IALN at

[nurserefresher@nurseleaders.org](mailto:nurserefresher@nurseleaders.org)