

What is the MA-C?

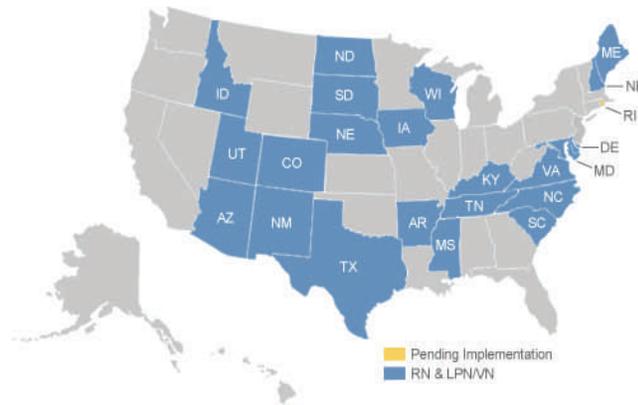
Certified Medication Assistants (MA-C) are nursing assistants, currently in good standing on the Nurse Aide Registry, who have had additional education and training, and who under the supervision of a licensed nurse are permitted to administer medications prescribed by an authorized practitioner. The MA-C is regulated by the Board of Nursing which has established the criteria for certification, defined the practice and established criteria for discipline for a MA-C who violates the standards. The rules established by the Board will protect against replacing licensed nurses with the MA-C in doing assessments, evaluations, teaching or administering meds where doing so presents substantial risk.

The rules do not mandate that facilities use MA-Cs. The MA-C does not take the place of unlicensed assistive personnel, who, after taking the Assistance with Medication class, assist patients with self-administration of medications.

The law authorizing the Board of Nursing to certify and regulate MA-C's becomes effective on July 1, 2008.



Nurse Licensure Compact Update



The States identified above have adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact—an agreement that grants nurses who have a primary state of residence in a Compact member state, the privilege to practice in other Compact states. The nurse must acknowledge that he/she is subject to each state's practice laws and discipline. Under the Compact, practice across state lines is allowed, whether physical or electronic, unless the nurse is under discipline or monitoring conditions that restrict practice in party states. A nurse residing in a Compact state may only hold one Compact state license, at any time.

Questions? Visit www.ncsbn.org

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2008—2010

Frequently
Asked
Questions

Licensed
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Board of Nursing Website:
www2.idaho.gov/ibn

If you have visited the Board's web site recently, you'll know that the following documents are available: Nursing Practice Act, Rules of the Board, Newsletters, Board Meeting dates/minutes, Statistical Reports, Guidelines and Statements, plus more. Be sure to check back often for additions.
www2.idaho.gov/ibn

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How do I choose a program to continue my nursing education?

Nursing education programs are not always what they appear to be. If a program appears too good to be true, ask yourself a few important questions.

First:

Is the program approved by a State Board of Nursing? Is it a traditional campus-based nursing program, an on-line program, or one that is self-study or is it a tutorial program? Not all programs are approved, so it is important that you have the information before signing up.

Will you earn a credential that will qualify you to take the NCLEX-RN?

If it is an on-line program, how many hours are required on the computer? Is the program flexible?

If it is a self-study program, are you a self-starter and able to set and complete class projects and goals without an instructor or other students to support and encourage you?

Tutorial programs do not guarantee admission into an approved nursing program so it will add to the cost of your education.

Second :

Ask, what are the additional costs, including enrollment, books and materials, travel for on-site clinical requirements, testing and clinical evaluation fees and graduation fees. Will you be able to work full or part-time?

Third:

Ask yourself if you are self-motivated, serious about earning a degree, and if this is an appropriate time for you.

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 LPNs be charge nurses?
- Can LPN's administer Botox?

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 defined in Administrative Rules of the Board. (IDAPA 23.01.01.400- 460)

The Decision-Making 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 specific medications such as Botox , nor do they state whether an LPN can be a Charge Nurse. The Decision-Making Model provides the format for determining the answer for each specific LPN and patient situation.
- The LPN functions in a dependent role at the direction of RNs, MDs, or licensed Dentists.
- The Rules apply to all practice settings.
- The stability of the patient and the predictability of the outcome determines the degree of supervision that should be provided.

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.

What Constitutes Abandonment?

Abandonment is defined in the rules of the Board of Nursing (IDAPA 23.01.01.010) as the termination of a nurse/patient relationship without first making appropriate arrangements for continuation of required nursing care. The nurse/patient relationship begins when responsibility for nursing care of a patient is accepted by the nurse. Refusal to accept an employment assignment or refusal to accept or begin a nurse/patient relationship is not abandonment. Reasonable notification, or a timely request for alternative care for a patient directed to an attending physician or to a staff supervisor prior to leaving the assignment, constitutes termination of the nurse/patient relationship.

Program for Recovering Nurses

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.

