



Should I 'Friend' a patient on Facebook or Twitter?

It is important that nurses maintain professional boundaries whether it is in person or through the use of electronic media. Online contact with a patient blurs that professional boundary. Before adding a patient on Facebook as a friend or following them on Twitter, review *A Nurse's Guide to the Use of Social Media* by NCSBN at www.NCSBN.org or review the *ANA's Guide to Principles for Social Networking and the Nurse*. Social media and other forms of electronic communication present exciting opportunities. Hospitals use it as an opportunity for discussions on nursing and health related education, research and evidence-based practice. Nurses use it to express their feelings and seek support from colleagues, friends and family. When used wisely it is a valuable tool but it can pose great risks for the nurse who uses it unwisely. Unintended consequences can lead to a nurse breaching patient confidentiality a serious violation that can result in job loss and disciplinary actions against your nursing license.



What is the Program for Recovering Nurses (PRN)?

Unsafe behaviors resulting from chemical use and mental health disorders pose a safety risk to the public and are grounds for discipline against a nurse's license. However, the Board of Nursing believes that nurses who are actively engaged in recovery do not pose a threat to the public. The Program for Recovering Nurses (PRN), guides impaired nurses into treatment and rehabilitation and monitors their return to safe, effective practice. This, in essence, spares their nursing license by not following a process of formal disciplinary action. If you know of a colleague who is no longer able to practice safely because of drugs, alcohol use or a mental health disorder, or you, yourself, are suffering from one of these primary illnesses, contact the PRN at 1-800-386-1695 or visit them online at : www.southworthassociates.net.

Where Can I find Information about the Board of Nursing?



The Board of Nursing website (www.ibn.idaho.gov) has been updated and can answer many of your questions about licensure and practice. On the Board home page you can view information about the Board, the Nursing Practice Act and Rules, Board members or staff, licensure information, publications, filing a complaint and e-mailing the Board. A quick links section will take you to sites most frequented by licensees. Employers visit the site to complete licensure searches. You might visit the site to renew your license or print off license verification for your records. Want to attend a Board Meeting? Use the website to find where and when the meetings will be held, review the agenda, or view the minutes of the last Board meeting.

IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2012



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The hospital where I work wants me to give IV push medications. Is this within my scope of practice?

To determine your scope of practice, use the Decision-Making Model and refer to the scope of practice for LPNs defined in the administrative rules of the Idaho Board of Nursing. (IDAPA 23.01.01.400&460).

The Decision – Making Model presents questions to be considered in determining scope of practice. If the task is not expressly prohibited by the Nursing Practice Act or limited to the scope of practice of registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses or prohibited by law, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Was the act taught as part of your basic nursing education? Do you possess current knowledge and competency to do this? *(Can you document the knowledge and skills needed? How could you become competent in this procedure?)*
2. Is the act consistent with standards of practice published by a national specialty nursing organization or supported by recognized nursing literature or reputable published research?
3. Does your employment setting have established policies and procedures authorizing you to perform the task and under what conditions?
4. In a similar situation, would a reasonable and prudent nurse with similar education and experience provide this same standard of care and are you prepared to accept the consequences of the act?

If the answer to each of these questions is "YES", then the function is within your scope of practice.

Can LPNs Delegate in Idaho?

LPNs in Idaho can and do delegate to unlicensed assistive personnel. The LPN that delegates retains accountability for the delegated acts and the consequences of delegation. Before delegating, the nurse must make sure that the act is not expressly prohibited by the Nurse Practice Act and that the activities are consistent with job descriptions or policies of the employer. The nurse must consider the complexity of the act, the monitoring required and the degree of predictability of the outcome and whether the task can be safely delegated. The nurse must provide appropriate instruction and supervision and must be confident that the person being delegated to is competent to perform the task. It is vital to review and understand the rules of delegation (IDAPA 23.01.01.400) which can be found on the Board web site.

Can an LPN pronounce death?

An LPN cannot pronounce death. There is no formal "pronouncement" of death required by Idaho law. It may be appropriate for an LPN to determine that death has occurred using accepted indicators such as absence of respirations and heart beat (medical standards). The licensed nurse may record the assessment of death in the patient's chart and inform other health care providers of the patient's death. The LPN who has determined that death has occurred must comply with reporting and recording requirements of the agency for which they are employed as well as relevant state laws. Idaho law requires that a certificate of death be signed by a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or a coroner who can document the cause of death.



I recently moved and got married. What is my responsibility in terms of my license?

When a licensed nurse legally changes his/her name the Board must be notified immediately (IDAPA 23.01.01.008.01). An affidavit for change of name found on the Board of Nursing website must be filled out, notarized and mailed to the Board office. A copy of the marriage license with the seal intact may be sent instead of the affidavit for change of name. Once the Board receives either the affidavit or marriage license and changes the licensure database to reflect the changes, you may begin using your new name professionally.

It is also important that you keep the Board updated on your current address. This is especially important if you are working in another Compact state on the privilege granted by your Idaho license. You can notify the Board by calling the Board office and talking with a staff person or completing the form on the website (see Online Address Changes in the 'Quick Links') or sending your change of address by mail. Please include your full name, license number or social security number, and old and new addresses. The Board phone number is (208) 334-3110.

