

Question: *What is the rumor I hear about Medication Aides?*

Answer: Legislation sponsored by the Idaho Health Care Association and the Board of Nursing amends the Nursing Practice Act to allow the Board to develop rules to regulate Medication Assistants—Certified (MA-C). Where allowed by law, MA-Cs will be permitted to administer medications prescribe by an authorized provider within the parameters set forth in rules and supervised by a licensed nurse.

Question: *Can I continue to practice if I am taking prescription medications? Should I refuse an assignment to overtime or extra shifts? Should I retire because of my age?*

Answer: In response to your questions the Board of Nursing has adopted a Position paper on, “Safety to Practice” to provide direction to assist you and your employer 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 actions 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.

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IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING

PROFESSIONAL NURSE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2007-2009



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Question: My Masters degree in nursing is in a clinical specialty. Can I call myself a Clinical Nurse Specialist?

Answer: July 1, 1999 rules of the Idaho Board of Nursing related to advanced practice professional nursing (IDAPA 23.01.01.271-389) took effect. The Nursing Practice Act defined Advanced Practice Professional Nurses as certified nurse-midwives, clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners and registered nurse anesthetists. (NPA 54-1402) The rules described the standards of practice (IDAPA 23.01.01.280) for each category of advanced practice professional nurse and the qualifications for licensure and renewal. (IDA PA 23.01.01.285-300) Clinical nurse specialist qualifications require that a nurse be currently licensed to practice as a professional nurse in Idaho and hold a master's or higher degree in nursing with clinical specialization from a program accredited by a national organization recognized by the Board. Qualifications also require that the CNS pass a certification exam administered by an organization recognized by the Board and be currently nationally certified as a clinical nurse specialist in the designated nursing specialty from an organization recognized by the Board. (IDAPA 23.01.01.285) states that it unlawful to falsely represent by use of any designation, title or statement that you are a Clinical Nurse Specialist if you are not licensed pursuant to this chapter.

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

Answer: Whenever a change of name occurs for a licensed nurse, the Board must be notified immediately. (IDAPA 23.01.01.008.01) An affidavit for change of name can be found on the Board web site, www2.idaho.gov/ibn. This can 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. Once the Board receives this, you may begin using your new name professionally. A copy of the license with the new name may be obtained by completing the application for duplicate certificate and mailing it to the Board with a \$10.00 fee.

Your new address may be added to the affidavit for name change and staff will change it in the Board records. If you are not changing your name but have recently moved please call, email or mail the Board office with your new address. Whenever a change of a licensee's mailing address occurs, the Board must immediately be notified of the change. (IDAPA 23.01.01.008.02.) The Board utilizes the most recent mailing address on record for purposes of all written communications with the licensee. This includes notification of renewal and notices related to disciplinary action.

Question: I am a RN who works as a traveler. How does the Compact work as I practice in Compact states?

Answer: In 2001 Idaho became the 13th member of the Nurse Licensure Compact. The Nurse Licensure Compact allows Licensed Practical Nurses

and Licensed Professional Nurses (RN) to hold one license in the state of primary residence and grants the privilege to practice in other Compact states without needing to obtain additional licenses. RNs who do not live in a Compact state but wish to practice in one must obtain a single state license from that state. Every nurse is responsible to practice within the rules and regulations of the state in which she is practicing.

The following states are Compact member states.

Arizona	Arkansas
Colorado	Delaware
Idaho	Iowa
Kentucky	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 to learn more about the Nurse Licensure Compact.