

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING
ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL**

Policy Number: _____

Department/Service Area: Monitoring

Category: RNP/Monitoring **Subject:** Opiate Replacement Therapy (ORT)

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing that individuals in the Recovering Nurse Program and individuals being monitored due to drug related findings are to abstain from any and all potentially addictive chemicals. Opiate replacement therapies such as Methadone and Buprenorphine are controlled and highly addictive. Additionally, it is the primary mission of the Board to assure that the public is protected. Since the potential for cognitive impairment exists with any opiate replacement therapy, individuals will not be allowed to actively practice nursing while on buprenorphine, methadone or any emerging opiate replacement.

Procedures:

Upon entering into an RNP agreement/Board Order, the individual will receive notice that the use of buprenorphine or any ORT is prohibited.

Individuals without a license {student, applicant or suspended individuals} will be instructed on the ORT policy. If they choose to seek licensure, they are encouraged to consult with their healthcare provider prior to enduring discontinuance of the medication. Must demonstrate six (6) months of negative drug screens prior to issuance of a temporary permit or reinstatement of license.

Board Recognized treatment providers will be notified of the Board's policy regarding ORT so that future prescriptions will be avoided.

There should be no off label use of buprenorphine/ORT.

If individuals test positive for buprenorphine/ORT after notice of prohibition and/or discontinuation regardless of validity of prescription, disciplinary protocols will be followed.

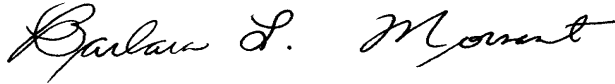
Individuals will not be allowed to return to practice following treatment while taking buprenorphine/ORT.

Proviso:

Individuals with a signed RNP agreement/Board Order and currently prescribed buprenorphine prior to the effective date of this Policy Statement will be instructed to consult with their healthcare provider prior to enduring discontinuance. Restrictions on their practice such as handling/administering of narcotics and working in critical care areas will not be lifted while on ORT. If near completion of the RNP agreement/Board Order, monitoring will be extended to

assure abstinence for a minimum of six (6) months from the cessation of buprenorphine or any
ORT.

Approved:



Executive Director

09/16/2009

Date

Accepted: BOARD HEARING, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009