

T H E E X A M I N E R

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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



I routinely take the opportunity in our Quarter 3 *Examiner* to review the most recent legislation that impacts or may impact professional nursing practice in the state of Louisiana. That summary for the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature is presented below.

HB109/ACT 192 Provides relative to the review of agency rules
5/23/2024 - Signed by the Governor Effective 8/1/2024 Amends R.S. 49:964 and 966

§964. Public request for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule; agency rule review

Any person may petition an agency requesting the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule.

An agency shall:

- by rule, prescribe the form for petitions & procedure for submission.
- have 90 days from submission to deny the petition or initiate rulemaking.
- include on its website a description of the procedure for submitting petitions.

A sufficient number of rules must be reviewed each year to ensure all rules have been reviewed within a five-year period.

Submit a report to appropriate legislative oversight committee in manner provided by R.S. 49:966(K).

Report shall contain:

- list of reviewed rules during the previous calendar year
- description of whether rule is necessary and consistent with the law & the agency’s mission
- determination on whether probable benefits of the rule outweigh the burdens and costs on persons regulated by the rule
- proposed action if any regarding each rule
- complete list of rules reviewed since beginning of five-year period
- percentage of rules reviewed since beginning of five-year period
- recitation of each petition, submission, and comment received pursuant to R.S. 49:964 during previous calendar year

§966. Review of agency rules; fees

The report required when adopting, increasing, or decreasing a fee must include:

- agency response to each petition, submission, and comment
- the report required by 49:964(D)

HB 192/ACT 20 Re-creates the Louisiana Department of Health

5/8/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective 6/30/2024

HB329/ACT 607 Provides with respect to the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.)

6/11/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective 7/1/2024

LDH may use money in the fund to fund nursing/allied health internships at licensed healthcare providers. Must report how the funds will expand nursing and allied health education programs to meet local, regional, or state workforce demands. If applicable, this shall include advanced education nursing programs and how the funds will increase the number of faculty and clinical preceptors.

HB363/ACT 375 Requires in-service training for school nurses on caring for students with sickle cell disease

5/28/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective 8/1/2024

Each local public school board shall adopt a policy to require that each school nurse participates in an in-service training program of at least one hour relative to sickle cell disease. Instructional materials shall be provided by the Louisiana Sickle Cell Commission via school boards. Mandate also applies to charter schools

HB716/ACT 568 Provides for universal recognition of occupational licenses

6/10/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective – 8/1/2024





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Welcome Home Act

Board must issue an occupational license to applicant who meets the delineated criteria.

The license may contain the statement “Licensed by Endorsement.”

An applicant may be required to pass a jurisprudential exam specific to relevant state laws.

Provides proof of residency requirements.

If another state requires certification but Louisiana requires licensure, a license must be issued if all other requirements met.

A written decision must be issued within 60 days of complete application.

The license is only valid in this state and does not make the applicant eligible to work under an interstate compact or reciprocity agreement.

HB60/ACT 256 Provides relative to the unauthorized use of sperm, ovum, or embryo

5/24/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective 5/24/2024

HB421/ACT 616 Requires healthcare providers to document a diagnosis of sickle cell disease on immunization records in certain circumstances

6/11/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective 8/1/2024

Parents of children with sickle cell disease may submit a disease management and treatment plan developed by parents and treating physician for use by school employees.

HB592/ACT 624 Provides relative to workplace violence in healthcare settings

6/11/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective 8/1/2024

Defines regulated entity to include any healthcare entity, excluding one that employs 5 or fewer medical providers

HB720/ACT 85 Provides relative to distribution of fentanyl under certain circumstances

5/15/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective 8/1/2024

Anyone who makes fentanyl or fentanyl packaging appeal to minors shall be imprisoned at hard labor for 25 – 99 years without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

Anyone who designs fentanyl or fentanyl packaging to resemble branded prescription medication or generic equivalents, shall be imprisoned at hard labor 10 - 40 years without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

SB55/ACT 122 Provides relative to post-birth information.

5/22/2024 - Signed by the Governor

Effective 8/1/2024

All hospitals and birthing centers that provide labor and delivery services, prior to discharge after birth, must provide the mother and her family members information about post-birth warning signs, including symptoms and available resources.

LDH to provide the information to the hospitals/birthing centers

For the Public Trust,

Karen C. Lyon, PhD, MBA, APRN, NEA_{BC}
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director





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Chiefs Corner

Division of Compliance Lauren Byrd Papillion, J.D. Chief Regulatory Officer

During the second quarter of 2024, the Compliance Department received 382 complaints. Of the 382 complaints received, 146 new investigations were opened. Department staff closed 177 investigations and as of the end of the quarter, the department had 425 open investigations, including 28 open Priority One investigations (Priority One cases pose an imminent and substantial danger to the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens). At the end of the second quarter, RNP/Monitoring Department had 438 participants – 197 in Monitoring and 241 in RNP (117 confidential participants and 124 disciplinary participants).

At a recent meeting of the Board, the Board expressed concern with the number and nature of Nurse Practice Act violations related to privacy and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) and asked for the Examiner to include information on these issues. When discussing patient privacy, HIPAA often comes to mind. HIPAA was enacted in 1996 and was a monumental piece of federal legislation for our nation's healthcare system. HIPAA has evolved significantly, especially with the addition of its Privacy Rule, which defines Protected Health Information (PHI) and sets federal standards for its access and sharing. In the beginning, the Privacy Rule did not have much "bite" to it, but enforcement and sanction provisions now require covered entities (as defined by HIPAA) to have policies in place for the handling of PHI and sanctions for unauthorized access.

In addition to this federal privacy standard, state law can provide even greater protections to PHI access and disclosure than HIPAA provides. In Louisiana, there is no general statute governing PHI access and disclosure, but there are various state statutes imposing PHI disclosure conditions on specific entities (e.g., insurers, state facilities, utilization review) and/or specific health conditions (e.g., birth defects, cancer, communicable disease, genetic test results, HIV/AIDS, mental health, substance abuse). For hospital-based nurses in Louisiana, state law requires hospitals to maintain a medical records department with standards for the organization of and access to the medical records.

Beyond federal and state regulations, hospitals and other entities may impose additional privacy protections. However, it is crucial to note that privacy and confidentiality have always been integral to nursing practice, even before HIPAA nationalized the privacy standard. Furthermore, nurses who work in a setting not covered by HIPAA can still be found in violation of the Nurse Practice Act if they violate the privacy or confidentiality owed to the patient.

As a practical matter, registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses should not need to study the dense intricacies of federal and state laws and can instead follow their employment / workforce policies and procedures. It is the responsibility of the "covered entity" to have HIPAA-compliant policies and procedures in place (45 C.F.R. § 164.308-312). Certain HIPAA security features will be standard across all systems, but other features permit the healthcare entity to implement the standard in a way that fits each entity's resources and capabilities. When working at different facilities and when working across states, it is important to remember that HIPAA permits some individualized implementation by the healthcare entity and, depending on the state, additional state-based protections may be required. Audit controls within electronic health records help prevent breaches of PHI and, after the violation, can be used as proof of a violation in a subsequent Board investigation.





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Division of Nursing
Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Chief Credentialing Officer

Annual Continuing Education Audit

The Nursing Division is set to begin the annual continuing education (CE) audit. RNs and APRNs must ensure that their email addresses are current, as we send notifications to individuals selected for the random audit to the email address of record. Details regarding CE requirements for RN and APRN license renewal were published in a preceding edition of The Examiner in October 2023 which can be viewed through LSBN's website or from the following link [examinerno32023.pdf \(state.la.us\)](#).

Remember that APRNs meet the requirements for CEs to renew their Louisiana RN licenses by holding current national certifications. In addition, APRNs with prescriptive authority must obtain six (6) contact/credit hours of CEs in pharmacotherapeutics (pharmacology) each year to maintain the prescriptive authority credential. The prescriptive authority credential renews automatically.

The Nurse Practice Act and LSBN's rules provide for license renewal and audit. The board shall randomly select no less than 3 percent of the licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements for re-licensure. Additionally, the board has the right to audit any questionable documentation of activities to ensure compliance with the rules.

RNP Corner
by Urhonda Beckwith, MSN, APRN, FNP
Director, RNP/Monitoring

Board Recognized Inpatient Treatment Centers

This edition of the Recovering Nurse Program (RNP) Corner focuses on Louisiana State Board of Nursing, board-recognized inpatient treatment centers. To become board-recognized, treatment centers must apply by submitting a completed application and supporting documents, and if all established criteria by the board are met, an in-person presentation is held at the board with board staff. After the presentation and if approved by the board staff to move forward, a site visit is scheduled by the Director and Chief Regulatory Officer. After the site visit, if all LSBN's criteria and application processes have been met, the CEO approves inpatient treatment centers to become board-recognized and then adds to LSBN's website.

Participants then choose from the list which treatment center to submit to an inpatient evaluation as stipulated by the RNP in **1.1 Medical Evaluation**. The participant will, at Participant's expense, within seven days of the date of this Agreement, or as otherwise specified in the Specifications annexed hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix A (the "Program Specifications"), enter into an inpatient treatment facility (the "Primary Treatment Facility") approved by the Program, as designated in the Program Specifications, for inpatient assessment and diagnostic evaluation.

Once a participant submits to an inpatient evaluation, they must comply with all the recommendations of their treatment team.

Currently, there are nine (9) board-recognized inpatient treatment centers.

For further information, please contact the RNP Department at (225)755-7546 or via email at rnp@lsbn.state.la.us. For a list of LSBN board-recognized inpatient treatment centers, please visit LSBN website: [Recovering Nurse Program – Louisiana State Board of Nursing](#).





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APRN Corner
by Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Chief Credentialing Officer

2025 APRN Licensure Renewal

Renewal season begins every year on October 1st. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) must renew both their Registered Nurse (RN) and APRN licenses before the expiration date. You may check the expiration date of your license(s) through the LSBN Nurse Portal (<https://lsbn.boardsofnursing.org/lsbn>) or the Licensure Verification link on LSBN's website [Licensure Verification - Louisiana State Board of Nursing](#). To renew as an APRN, you must *either*:

A. Hold current national certification in each licensed advanced practice role and population focus, with *primary source* evidence on file with the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN). **APRNs whose certification will expire by December 31st during the renewal period will be required to have their certifying body provide primary source verification of their recertification directly to LSBN prior to being eligible to renew their Louisiana nursing license(s) online.** If your certification is due to expire this calendar year, apply for recertification with your certifying body as soon as possible and indicate that proof of your recertification must be sent to LSBN by their office.

----- **OR** -----

B. If national certification was not available in the advanced role and population focus (formerly referred to as 'specialty') when the APRN was originally licensed, the nurse must submit evidence to LSBN that commensurate requirements were met during the licensure period immediately preceding renewal to be eligible for license renewal. All practice hours and continuing education (CE) **must** be at the advanced practice level (*advanced assessment, diagnosis and management of conditions, pharmacology, etc.*) and directly related to the full scope of the advanced practice role and population focus for which the commensurate licensure had been granted. The VR-1 form is available on LSBN's website and must be completed, signed, and mailed to the LSBN office together with sufficient advanced practice CE for Board staff review and approval **prior** to the APRN being authorized to complete the online licensure renewal. We encourage all APRNs holding a commensurate role to send their complete VR-1 packet to the LSBN office for review as soon as possible.

APRN's with Prescriptive Authority -

Each year an APRN with prescriptive authority must obtain six (6) contact/credit hours of continuing education (CE) in pharmacotherapeutics (pharmacology). The pharmacology CEs must be at the advanced practice level and related to the APRN's licensed role and population focus. APRNs will be requested to attest that they have completed/complied with this requirement during the online renewal. Advanced pharmacology CE documentation for APRN renewal must be accredited by an agency/organization recognized by LSBN for advanced practice.

License Renewal for APRNs with an RN Multistate License (MSL) in another Compact State-

To be eligible to renew your APRN license, you must either have a current RN license issued by this agency or have an RN MSL issued by another compact state. If you are a Louisiana-licensed APRN and hold an RN MSL in another Compact state which is your primary state of residence, you should not renew the Louisiana RN license and must comply with the following instructions in a timely manner before renewing your APRN license.

First, you must apply to inactivate your LA RN license, and second, notify the APRN department that you have an MSL in another Compact state by sending an email to advancedpractice@lsbn.state.la.us or sending a message through your nurse portal account using the category APRN licensure.

After the application to inactivate your RN license is processed, you will be eligible to renew your APRN license within





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your nurse portal account without being required to renew the Louisiana RN license. You are responsible for notifying LSBN in a timely manner that you have an RN MSL in another state and provide an opportunity for LSBN staff to process the application to inactivate the RN license so that you may renew the APRN license without being required to renew the Louisiana RN license. You must renew your license(s) before midnight on January 31, 2025, if you wish to maintain active licensure.

Your timely attention to this matter is needed. Keep in mind that license application fees including renewal fees are non-refundable.

The Advantages and Challenges of Using AI in Nursing Regulation

by Donald Bowman, JD
Hearings Director

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly integrated into various professional fields, including nursing. This submission briefly explores the advantages and challenges of using AI in nursing regulation.

Advantages

Efficiency: AI can significantly streamline nursing regulatory tasks such as licensing and compliance checks. Applying AI to these functions can significantly reduce processing times, allowing human resources to focus on higher-priority tasks.

Accuracy: AI systems are adept at identifying behavior patterns that may indicate Nurse Practice Act breaches.

Fairness: AI can help ensure impartiality in disciplinary actions by standardizing sanctions based on set criteria and mitigating human biases. It can also provide unbiased recommendations for disciplinary actions, ensuring consistency across cases.

Challenges

Data Privacy and Security: Integrating AI in regulatory processes necessitates handling sensitive personal data, raising concerns about data privacy and security. Stringent data governance policies are needed to protect protected and privileged information.

Ethical Concerns and Bias: While AI can mitigate certain human biases, it can also introduce new forms of bias if not properly managed. AI systems must be carefully designed and continually monitored to avoid perpetuating existing biases or creating new ones in decision-making processes.

Conclusion

Using AI in nursing licensing and disciplinary processes offers significant efficiency, accuracy, and fairness advantages. However, these benefits must be balanced with careful attention to data privacy, security, and ethical considerations. Nursing regulation can fully harness AI's potential by addressing these challenges while maintaining ethical and professional standards.





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Understanding the Roles: LSBN Board Members vs. LSBN Board Staff by Alicia Edmond Wheeler Executive Counsel

This article aims to clarify the distinct yet interdependent roles of LSBN Board members and Board staff, emphasizing their collaborative efforts in upholding nursing standards and protecting public health, safety, and welfare.

In the realm of healthcare, ensuring high standards of practice and patient care is paramount. This responsibility often falls to state occupational licensing boards, which play a crucial role in overseeing healthcare professions, including nursing. While both nursing board members and nursing board staff are integral to a board's functioning, their roles and responsibilities differ significantly. Understanding these differences is essential for anyone involved in or affected by nursing regulations.

LSBN Board Members: Setting Policies and Standards

Nursing board members are typically appointed by the governor or other state authorities and are often experienced professionals in the field of nursing or other healthcare disciplines. The LSBN is composed of eight registered nurses appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana State Nurses Association, one certified registered nurse anesthetist appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Ltd., and two representatives of the consumers of Louisiana from the state at-large appointed by the governor, neither of whom is a nurse. La. R.S. 37:914. The board members' primary responsibilities include:

1. **Policy Development:** Board members are instrumental in creating and updating the regulations that govern nursing practice within the state. This includes setting licensure requirements, continuing education standards, and professional conduct guidelines.
2. **Disciplinary Actions:** When complaints or issues arise regarding nursing practice, board members review cases and make decisions on appropriate disciplinary actions. This ensures that nurses maintain high standards of practice and ethical behavior.
3. **Strategic Oversight:** Board members provide strategic direction for the LSBN, helping to shape long-term goals and initiatives that promote the nursing profession and safeguard public health.
4. **Public Representation:** As public appointees, board members represent the interests of the citizens of Louisiana. They ensure that nursing regulations protect patients and reflect the evolving needs of the healthcare environment.

LSBN Board Staff: Implementing and Managing Operations

LSBN staff, on the other hand, are civil service employees who handle the day-to-day operations of the Board. Their key responsibilities include:

1. **Customer Service:** Board staff serves as the primary point of contact for nurses and the public, providing information on licensure requirements, continuing education opportunities, disciplinary processes, and other regulatory inquiries.
2. **Compliance and Enforcement:** The staff is responsible for enforcing the LSBN's rules and regulations. This includes conducting investigations into complaints against nurses, gathering evidence, and supporting the board members in disciplinary processes.
3. **Administrative Support:** Staff members manage the administrative tasks essential to the LSBN's operation, such as processing licensure applications, renewals, and maintaining accurate records of licensed nurses.
4. **Educational Outreach:** Staff members help educate nurses and the public about the LSBN's rules and regulations and any changes to nursing practice standards.

While their roles differ, the LSBN board members and board staff work collaboratively to ensure the LSBN operates efficiently and effectively. Board members rely on the staff's operational support to implement policies and manage compliance, while staff members depend on the guidance and decisions of the board members to carry out their duties. Together, they form a cohesive unit dedicated to safeguarding the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are competent and safe.





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Louisiana Center for Nursing
by Sarah Luneau
Public Information Director

The 2023 Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) Licensure Renewal season marked the ninth year of renewals using the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Optimal Regulatory Board System (ORBS) online licensure renewal system. This is the sixth year that LSBN will have licensure data on all licensed registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) available through ORBS. The LSBN IT Department, Center for Nursing, and the ORBS Team have worked diligently over the last nine years to ensure the quality and accuracy of the data that will be used by our stakeholders to inform policy makers related to Louisiana’s RN and APRN workforce.



The 2023 Nurse Supply Report and accompanying infographic is based on a snapshot of every RN and APRN that had an active license to practice in Louisiana on December 31st, 2023. This will be the fifth year that LCN will have the ability to continue the process of trending data since LSBN’s transition to ORBS. You can read the report in its entirety and view the infographic at the following links:

- [2023 Nurse Supply Report](#)
- [2023 Snapshot of Nursing Education Capacity and Nursing Supply in Louisiana](#)

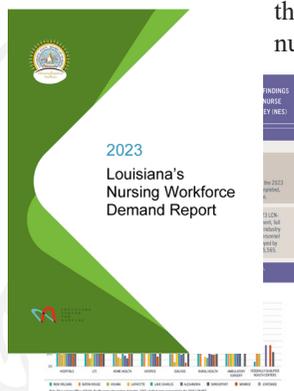
The 2023 Nursing Education Capacity Report and accompanying infographic provides valuable information to employers of RNs and APRNs, schools of nursing, workforce planners, policy makers, and other interested stakeholders, about the state’s capacity to educate new and existing RNs and APRNs, as well as the state’s ability to provide opportunities to those RNs and APRNs desiring to advance their education. This report is based on data taken from the 2023 annual reports completed by Louisiana’s undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. Information such as the number of applicants admitted to undergraduate and graduate nursing programs each year, the number of students enrolled in clinical nursing courses, the number of graduates, the passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination and qualifications of faculty teaching in Louisiana’s pre-RN and APRN programs can be found in the 2023 Nursing Education Capacity Report. You can read the report in its entirety and view the infographic at the following links:

- [2023 Nursing Education Capacity Report](#)
- [2023 Snapshot of Nursing Education Capacity and Nursing Supply in Louisiana](#)



Findings from the 2023 Nurse Employer Survey

In 2023, the Louisiana Center for Nursing (LCN) launched the state’s fourth statewide Nurse Employer Survey (NES) to determine the demand for RNs, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and nursing assistants (NAs) in Louisiana based on data obtained from employers. Major healthcare industries employing the vast majority of nurses such as hospitals, long term care (LTC) facilities, home health agencies, hospices, and public health facilities were surveyed to gather information about vacancy rates, turnover rates, and growth rates for the various types of nursing personnel. Additional questions such as the number of licensed beds vs staffed beds; number of nurses hired within the last year; and hourly wage for entry level and experienced nursing personnel were added. A total of 1,328 surveys were sent to health care facilities across the state and 357 were returned resulting in an overall 27% response rate.



The following are a few highlights from the 2023 LCN-NES. A complete list of major findings can be found at the end of the report. The report in its entirety can be found at the following link: [LCN Nurse Demand Report](#). The infographic can be viewed at the following link: [LCN](#)





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[Nurse Demand Infographic.](#)

Highlights from the 2023 Nurse Employer Survey:

- Healthcare facilities that completed the 2023 LCN-NES provided information on 23,898 permanent, full or part-time nursing personnel across nine industry groups. When 1,667 additional temporary personnel were included, the number of nurses employed by responding healthcare industries totaled 25,565.
- In 2023, there was an unmet demand for 4,579 RNs, 1,860 LPNs and 1,128 NAs based on data obtained from the nine major types of healthcare facilities that participated in the 2023 LCN- NES.
- Although the greatest number of RNs were employed by hospitals (10,583), public health continues to have the largest proportion of RNs among all nursing staff. Eighty-seven point eight of the entire nursing staff for public health are RNs, followed by ambulatory surgery care centers (74.7%) and hospitals (66.9%).
- LPNs represent the greatest proportion of the nursing workforce in home health (32.9%), LTC (30.9%), rural health clinics (25.8%), and FQHCs (22.6%).
- LTC facilities and hospitals employed the largest number of NAs, 3,413 and 2,480, respectively. Nurse aides represent the largest proportion of the nursing staff for LTCs (59%) followed by dialysis centers (34%).
- Of the 1,786 APRNs employed by responding healthcare facilities, 78.6% were NPs, 19.8% were CRNAs, 1.4% were CNSs, and 0.3% were CNMs. When compared to the other types of healthcare facilities that were surveyed, FQHCs (47.7%), rural health clinics (29.3%), and ambulatory surgery centers (9.3%) had the greatest proportion of APRNs as a part of their nursing workforce.
- In 2022, 1,667 temporary nursing staff were reported by responding employers compared to 1,758 temporary staff reported by responding employers in 2018 which represents a 5.2% decrease in number.
- The highest vacancy rate for direct care RNs was 22.5% for dialysis centers, 19.8% for home health agencies, 17.5% for hospitals, and 16.0% for public health.
- In 2022, the median turnover rate for RNs in hospitals in Louisiana, the largest employer of RNs identified in the survey in terms of the number of budgeted positions, was 35.4% compared to a median turnover rate of 20.2% in 2018 and 13.8% in 2014. In 2022, the national turnover rate for RNs in hospitals was reported to be 22.5%, an increase of 6.6 percentage points when compared to the 15.9% turnover rate reported in 2019 (NSI National Healthcare and RN Retention Report, 2023).
- Registered nurses were reported as among the most difficult types of nurses to recruit by hospitals, LTC facilities, and dialysis centers. LPNs were identified as being one of the five most difficult types of nurses to recruit by LTC facilities, home health agencies, and rural health clinics. Nurse administrators were identified by four of the nine types of healthcare facilities surveyed as being one of the five most difficult types of nurses to recruit.
- As of January 1, 2023, there was a three-percentage point increase in the proportion of RNs that were prepared at the baccalaureate level in hospitals and similarly, a three-percentage point increase in the proportion employed by ambulatory surgery centers when compared to data obtained in the 2018 LCN-NES.
- In 2022, a total of 610 new RN grads and 133 new LPN grads were hired by hospitals which represents a 30.8% decrease in the number of RNs hired by responding hospitals and a 33.5% decrease in the number of new LPN grads hired by hospitals when compared to 2018.
- Approximately 23.5% of hospitals completing the 2023 NES reported offering a nurse residency program.





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2025 Registered Nurse Licensure Renewal: Continuing Education/Nursing Practice Requirements by Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC Chief Credentialing Officer

Registered Nurse (RN) license renewal season begins October 1st.

If your primary state of residence (PSOR) is another compact state and you hold an active multistate license in that state, do not re-new your current single-state Louisiana RN license. RNs with an active multistate license in another compact state are authorized to practice under a privilege to practice in Louisiana provided no discipline or restriction is taken on the multistate license or privilege to practice. You may submit an application to voluntarily inactivate your RN license, or you may allow the license to lapse which will occur at midnight CST on January 31, 2025.

Submit only one RN renewal application. The compact license is not a separate license but rather a “type” of RN license that renews upon completion of the renewal application.

What is the number one reason nurses will have an unsuccessful Continuing Education (CE)/Nursing Practice audit?

Failure to complete CEs that have been approved by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or a state board of nursing (BON).

What is my CE/Nursing Practice requirement to qualify for Louisiana RN license renewal for 2025?

All Louisiana licensed RNs except those issued a 1st time Louisiana license in the 2024 calendar year **must** follow LSBN rules regarding nursing CE requirements. All CEs must have been accredited by either the ANCC or a specific State BON.

Each year, following renewal season, a random CE/nursing practice audit is performed by board staff. A total of three percent of all active licensees are selected to demonstrate compliance with the nursing CE/nursing practice requirement. Failure to respond or successfully pass the CE/nursing practice audit may result in the inactivation of the nurse’s license and/or disciplinary action. Maintaining LSBN-accepted nursing CE documentation for at least five (5) years is the responsibility of the individual nurse.

How many nursing CE contact hours or nursing practice hours do I need to renew my Louisiana RN license?

For RN license renewal, at least one of the two options below must have been completed during the two-year licensure period:

- a minimum of 30 board-approved contact hours of continuing education during the two-year licensure period;

OR

- a minimum of 900 practice hours during the two-year licensure period as verified by the employer on a form provided by the board when you are selected for the audit.

Further details regarding the requirements for CE/nursing practice are available at [CE Brochure \(state.la.us\)](https://www.state.la.us/ce-brochure).

The requirements must be completed before you renew. Practice hours are not required to have been completed in Louisiana. There are exceptions and other important information in the link above.

There are no separate requirements for compact licensure issued by LSBN. The definition of nursing practice and roles that RNs fulfill are described in the brochure.

See the article in this issue of The Examiner under the APRN Corner for details regarding APRN renewal.





July 16, 2024

Philip Dickison, PhD, RN
Chief Executive Officer
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
111 E. Wacker Dr., Ste. 2900
Chicago, IL 60601-4277
Pdickison@ncsbn.org

Dear Dr. Dickison:

The purpose of this letter is to bring to the attention of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) information related to injectable compounded drug products containing semaglutide or tirzepatide. We encourage you to share the information in this letter with your members for their awareness and consideration.

FDA is aware of increased interest in compounded semaglutide and tirzepatide products. Compounded drug products can serve an important medical need for certain patients. However, compounded drug products, including compounded semaglutide and tirzepatide products, are not FDA-approved. They do not undergo premarket review by FDA for safety, effectiveness, or quality.

FDA has received reports describing patients who experienced adverse events following the administration of compounded semaglutide or tirzepatide products in doses exceeding the recommended dosing or titration schedule for FDA-approved semaglutide and tirzepatide products. The adverse events described in the reports included nausea, vomiting, fatigue, stomach pain, shortness of breath, headache, heartburn, weakness, intestinal blockage, hypoglycemia, impacted bowels, electrolyte imbalances, bowel infection, ketoacidosis, pancreatitis, and rhabdomyolysis. Some of these are serious adverse events and some of the patients reported seeking medical attention for their symptoms.

FDA's ability to derive conclusions about safety concerns from these reports is limited because, for example, compounding pharmacies that are not registered with the FDA as outsourcing facilities generally do not submit adverse event reports to the FDA, and among the reports submitted, reported information varies. However, certain factors noted in the reports that may have contributed to the adverse events include the following:

- Prescribers started patients on doses that were approximately two to four times higher than the recommended starting doses of FDA-approved semaglutide and

tirzepatide products.

- Compounded semaglutide products were prescribed to be administered twice a week instead of once weekly, which is the recommended frequency of administration for FDA-approved semaglutide and tirzepatide products.
- Prescribers titrated the patients' doses every one to two weeks instead of every four weeks, which is the recommended titration schedule of FDA-approved semaglutide and tirzepatide products.

Health care providers and your members may consider information about the potential for adverse events when doses, dose frequencies, or titration schedules vary from those of the FDA-approved products, and when weighing the risks versus benefits and determining appropriate doses and titration and dosing schedules for patients.

FDA encourages health care professionals and compounders to report adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of compounded drugs to FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program:

- Complete and submit the report online at [MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program](#) or
- Download and complete the form, then submit it via fax at 1-800-FDA-0178.

We are also sending this letter to the Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding (APC), the Federation of State Medical Boards, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, and the Outsourcing Facility Association, for your awareness.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on matters related to drug compounding. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Compounding Quality and Compliance at compounding@fda.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Shannon Glueck, Pharm.D.
Branch Chief, Compounding Branch 4
Division of Compounding II
Office of Compounding Quality and Compliance
Office of Compliance
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
U.S. Food & Drug Administration



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Major Motions

Major Motions and Other Actions Taken at the February 22, 2024 Board Meeting

Motion to Adopt the Agenda as amended.

Motion Carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023 Board Meeting.

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda Motions

1. LSBN Staff Program Status Reports
 1. NCLEX Report
 2. Accreditation Reports
2. Education Announcements
 1. Change in Director of Associate Nursing at Delta Community College
 2. Change in Chief Nurse Administrator at William Carey University at Baton Rouge

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda Motions.

Motion Carried.

EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION

Motion to accept Louisiana Christian University's disciplinary report regarding the probationary status of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Baton Rouge General Medical Center Diploma NCLEX 2023 scores and remove the probationary status and return the school to Full Approval Status.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Chamberlain University's BSN NCLEX 2023 scores and remove the probationary status and return the school to Full Approval Status.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Louisiana Delta Community College ASN NCLEX 2023 scores and remove the probationary status and re-

turn the school to Full Approval Status.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Louisiana State University at Alexandria ASN NCLEX 2023 scores and remove the probationary status and return the school to Full Approval Status.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Southern University at Baton Rouge BSN NCLEX 2023 scores and remove the probationary status and return the school to Full Approval Status.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Southern University at Shreveport's NCLEX 2023 scores and remove the probationary status and return the school to Full Approval Status.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept William Carey University NCLEX 2023 scores and remove the probationary status and return the school to Full Approval Status.

Motion Carried.

Motion to re-approve the request of Frontier Nursing University to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until December 14, 2026, for the following roles/populations:

- Doctor of Nursing Practice – DNP
- Master of Science in Nursing – MSN
- Post Graduate Certificate
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric Mental Health Care Nurse Practitioner
- Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner

Motion Carried.

LICENSURE AND PRACTICE

Motion to move this agenda item, Request for Petition for Declaratory Statement or Advisory Opinion from Jennifer Jones Thomas seeking scope of practice because of the statements made in the January 20, 2023 edition of the Examiner article "Intravenous Hydration"





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to the April 25, 2024 Board meeting.

Motion Carried.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Motion to accept and approve LSBN Board Resolution to amend its contract for legal services with Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP.

Motion Carried.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Motion to accept the 2023 Louisiana Center for Nursing Newly Licensed Registered Nurse Survey Report.

Motion Carried.

REPORTS

Motion to accept the reports of the President, Vice President, and the CEO/Executive Director as submitted.

Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of hearing the Report on Litigation and Personnel Issues.

Motion Carried.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Major Motions and Other Actions Taken at the April 25, 2024 Board Meeting

Motion to Adopt the Agenda as amended.

Motion Carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024 Board Meeting.

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda Motions

1. LSBN Staff Program Status Reports
 1. NCLEX Report
2. 2023 Schools of Nursing Annual Reports
 1. Baton Rouge General Medical Center’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 2. Bossier Parish Community College’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 3. Baton Rouge Community College’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 4. Chamberlain University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 5. Delgado Community College’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 6. Dillard University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 7. Fletcher Technical Community College’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 8. Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 9. Grambling State University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 10. University of Holy Cross’ 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 11. Louisiana Delta Community College’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 12. Louisiana Tech University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 13. Loyola University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 14. Louisiana State University at Alexandria’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 15. Louisiana State University at Eunice’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 16. Louisiana State University Health New Orleans’ 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 17. McNeese State University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 18. Nicholls State University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 19. Northshore Technical Community College’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 20. Northwestern State University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 21. South Louisiana Community College’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 22. Southeastern Louisiana University’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 23. Southern University at New Orleans’ 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 24. Southern University Baton Rouge’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
 25. Southern University at Shreveport’s 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report





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- 26. SOWELA Technical Community College's 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
- 27. Tulane University's 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
- 28. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
- 29. University of Louisiana at Monroe's 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
- 30. William Carey University's 2023 Undergraduate Annual Report
- 31. Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 32. Grambling State University's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 33. Intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science in Nursing's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 34. Loyola University's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 35. Louisiana State University Health New Orleans' 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 36. McNeese State University's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 37. Northwestern State University's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 38. Southeastern Louisiana University's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 39. Southern University at Baton Rouge's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 40. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 41. University of Louisiana at Monroe's 2023 Graduate Annual Report
- 3. Education Announcements
 - 1. Change in Associate Dean of Online Prelicensure Nursing at Herzing University - Madison
 - 2. Louisiana Christian University Administrative Change

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda Motions.

Motion Carried.

EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION

Motion to accept the letter of intent and feasibility study from Chamberlain University, Chicago, IL, and approve Step I to establish a Master of Science in Nursing and Graduate Certificate in Nursing education degree program for the following roles and populations:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Louisiana Christian University's report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the discontinued Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept the ANNUAL REPORT of the baccalaureate of science in nursing degree program at Louisiana Christian University and place on probation for non-compliance with LAC 46:XLVII.3535.B.

And further, that the Board instruct Louisiana Christian University to submit interim progress reports for the baccalaureate of science in nursing degree program to be reviewed at subsequent 2024 LSBN Board meetings.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept the ANNUAL REPORT of the baccalaureate of science in nursing degree program at Herzing University and place on probation for non-compliance with LAC 46:XLVII.3535.B.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept to instruct Herzing University to submit interim progress reports for the baccalaureate of science in nursing degree program to be reviewed at subsequent 2024 LSBN Board meetings.

Motion Carried.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Motion to approve Proposed Request for IT Expenditure.

Motion Carried.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Motion to accept the 2023 LSBN Annual Report.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept the 2023 Nursing Education Capacity Report.

Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Louisiana's 2023 Nursing Workforce Demand Report.





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Motion Carried.

REPORTS

Motion to approve the reports of the President, Vice President, and the CEO/Executive Director as submitted.

Motion Carried.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Motion to approve and accept the 2024-2026 LSBN Strategic Map.

Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of hearing the Report on Litigation and Personnel Issues.

Motion Carried.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Disciplinary Matters

The LSBN took a total of 26 actions at the April 24, 2024 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[April 24, 2024](#)

The LSBN took a total of 34 actions at the May 22, 2024 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[May 22, 2024](#)

The LSBN took a total of 15 actions at the June 12, 2024 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[June 12, 2024](#)

2024 State Holiday Schedule

Labor Day.....	September 2, 2024
Election Day.....	November 5, 2024
Veterans Day.....	November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving Day.....	November 28, 2024
Christmas Day.....	December 25, 2024
New Year's Day.....	January 1, 2025

Future Board Meeting Dates

August 8, 2024
October 10, 2024
December 5, 2024

