ENHANCED NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (eNLC)

NCLEX® PASS RATES

DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT ACT (DATA) OF 2000
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The mission of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing is to protect the public and act as their advocate by effectively regulating the practice of nursing.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sue A. Tedford, MNSc, APRN

EDITOR
LouAnn Walker

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The ASBN Update circulation includes over 52,000 licensed nurses and student nurses in Arkansas.

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www.arsbn.org
The process of verifying a nurse’s licensure in Arkansas is changing as a result of the implementation of the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC). The national database, Nursys®, www.nursys.com, is now considered primary source verification for Arkansas nurses. Nursys provides licensure and discipline data for APRNs, RNs and LPNs across the United States (exception Hawaii and Louisiana LPNs). We anticipate Nursys will display licensure information on LPTNs and RNPs by mid-2018, and once that occurs the ASBN Registry Search will be discontinued.

Nursys has evolved over the years and offers a wealth of information about each licensee. In addition to a list of each license a nurse holds and the licensure status, disciplinary action by the Arkansas Board of Nursing and other Boards of Nursing is included. Attached to the nurse’s file is a copy of the actual disciplinary orders issued by the board. A relatively new feature in Nursys is e-Notify, a free service for nurses and employers. Nurses who enroll receive automatic notifications about license status, license expiration, license renewal and public disciplinary actions or alerts. Employers can register with Nursys and enroll their licensees. The employer will receive real-time notifications about each enrolled nurse. For more detailed information see the e-Notify FAQs in this edition of the ASBN Update.

A feature that will be added to Nursys before the end of 2017 is a map and list of the states each nurse has the authority to practice in under the compact. In the example below, the nurse has the authority to practice in 25 states.

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Idaho
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland

- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- Wisconsin

In the example below, this nurse holds a single state license and may only practice in Colorado.

The eNLC will be implemented on January 19, 2018. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in this issue describe the key provisions of the eNLC, as well as the differences between the current Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and the eNLC. One key difference is that just because a nurse is licensed in a compact state DOES NOT mean they hold a multistate license and can practice in Arkansas or another compact state. The use of Nursys is essential once the eNLC is implemented in order to determine in which states a nurse may practice and ensures only qualified nurses are practicing in Arkansas. Additional information related to the eNLC can be found at https://www.ncsbn.org/enhanced-nlc-implementation.htm.
As part of Arkansas’ only comprehensive academic health sciences center, the UAMS College of Nursing is the state’s largest nursing program offering a variety of degree paths to help you set yourself apart in the nursing field. Our degree programs include:

- **BSN**: Little Rock and Texarkana/Hope locations
- **RN-BSN**: Online with 7 ½ week courses and admissions 5x/year
- **MNSc**: Nurse practitioner specialties (adult-gerontology acute or primary care, family, psychiatric mental health, pediatric acute or primary care) and nurse administration
- **Post-BSN to DNP**: Nurse practitioner specialties (adult-gerontology acute or primary care, family, psychiatric mental health, pediatric acute or primary care)
- **DNP**: Leadership focus
- **PhD**: Research focus with preparation as a nurse scientist. Academic paths post BSN, MNSc, or DNP

Programs are available in locations throughout the state.

To apply or learn more, visit: [nursing.uams.edu](http://nursing.uams.edu)
Update from the NCSBN Annual Conference: Collaborating for the Future of Regulation

In August, several ASBN staff and board members attended the annual National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) conference in Chicago. This is always an excellent meeting and an opportunity to network with other states regarding our profession. Arkansas was well represented at the meeting.

It is an exciting time for our state for several reasons. It is an honor to note that our Executive Director, Sue Tedford, was elected by her peers to serve as the Chair of the new enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) commission. The first commission meeting was called to order by Mrs. Tedford with all twenty-six participating states present. Mrs. Tedford will lead this commission over the next two years as guidelines and policies are developed.

The new eNLC will be implemented on January 19, 2018. At that time, those licensed in a current compact state (Arkansas) will no longer be able to practice in the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Rhode Island and Wisconsin without obtaining a single-state license for that state. You will need to contact that state’s board of nursing and apply for licensure to continue to practice in one of those states. I recommend that you start communication with that state board of nursing now if you wish to continue to practice there after January 19, 2018.

However, you will gain the ability to practice in Oklahoma, Georgia, Florida, West Virginia and Wyoming after implementation of the eNLC. It will be very important for nurses and employers to check licensure on www.nursys.com for states of practice. It will no longer say single-state or multistate license, but will list the states you are licensed to practice, including a map and link to each state.

Nurses in the four outgoing states will no longer be able to practice in Arkansas on their state license. They will be required to obtain an Arkansas license in order to continue to work in Arkansas. Around November 1, 2017, any nurse living in one of the outgoing states that plans to work in Arkansas, will need to apply to ASBN for an individual state license in order to continue to work here after implementation of the eNLC.

Nurses in the five incoming states must continue to check with their respective states to see if they have been issued a multistate license. Just because January 19, 2018, is the date of implementation for the new compact, does not mean nurses licensed in the five new states can begin to practice in Arkansas or any other compact state. They must have a multistate license in order to work outside of their state.

It will be imperative for employers to verify licensure of employees. This will be a very simple process on www.nursys.com as it will list states and include a map of where a nurse may work.
We will keep you updated on developments with the new eNLC.

Another important issue addressed at the conference affects nursing education. Following the NCSBN study regarding simulation, NCSBN developed simulation model guidelines, and the guidelines were adopted by the NCSBN delegate assembly at the conference. The state board is working alongside nursing education programs to best utilize the model guidelines for our own educational programs.

Congratulations to Dr. Kaci Bohn, consumer board member, on her election as one of three members at-large on the NCSBN Leadership Succession Committee. She will be a wonderful asset and an excellent representative of Arkansas. Congratulations, Kaci!
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- Traditional LPN to BSN on campus

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BOARD DATES

2017
October 11 .......... Hearings
October 12 .......... Hearings
November 7 .......... Hearings
November 8 .......... Hearings

2018
January 10 .......... Hearings
January 11 .......... Business Meeting
February 14 .......... Hearings
February 15 .......... Hearings
April 11 ............. Hearings
April 12 ............. Hearings
May 9 ....... Board Strategic Planning
May 10 ............. Business Meeting
June 6 .............. Hearings
June 7 .............. Hearings
July 11 ............. Hearings
July 12 ............. Hearings
September 12 ...... Hearings
September 13 ....... Business Meeting
October 10 .......... Hearings
October 11 .......... Hearings
November 14 ....... Hearings
November 15 ....... Hearings
Special Notice about the Arkansas State Board of Nursing Magazine

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing has designated this magazine as an official method to notify nurses residing in the state and licensed by the Board about information and legal developments. Please read this magazine and keep it for future reference as this magazine may be used in hearings as proof of notification of the ASBN Update’s contents. Please contact LouAnn Walker at the Board office (501.686.2715) if you have questions about any of the articles in this magazine.

Farewell to Outgoing Board Members

Outgoing board members Karen Holcomb, RN, and Terri Imus, RN, were each presented a plaque to commemorate their term on the Board and to thank them for their service to the citizens of Arkansas, to all nurses and to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. They each served two four-year terms on the Board.

Board Business

President Ramonda Housh presided over the hearings on September 13 and the business meeting held on September 14. Highlights of Board actions are as follows:

- Granted Continued Full Approval to:
  - North Arkansas College Practical Nurse Program until the year 2022
  - College of the Ouachitas Associate in Nursing Degree Program until the year 2022
  - Arkansas State University – Newport Practical Nurse Program until the year 2022
- Jefferson Regional Medical Center School of Nursing Associate Degree in Nursing Program until the year 2022
- Baptist Health School of Nursing Associate Degree in Nursing Program until the year 2022
- Henderson State University Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing Program until the year 2022
- National Park College Associate Degree in Nursing Program until the year 2022
- Granted Full Approval to the Arkansas State University – Mountain Home Medication Assistant-certified program until the year 2020
- Granted Pre-requisite Approval to the College of the Ouachitas Practical Nurse Program to begin a satellite practical nurse program in Sheridan.
- Elected Board Officers for 2017-2018 President – Ramonda Housh, APRN
  Vice President – Yolanda Green, LPN
  Secretary – Kaci Bohn, Ph.D.
  Treasurer – Mike Burdine, RN
How does e-Notify work?
e-Notify is a free of charge innovative nurse licensure notification system where you receive real-time notifications about nurses employed at your institution. The system provides licensure including enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) status and practice privilege authorization for your nurses in different states, and publicly available discipline data directly to you as the information is entered into the Nursys database by boards of nursing.

What are the benefits to using e-Notify?
Nursys is the only national database for licensure verification including eNLC license status for RNs and LPN/VNs, discipline for registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Nursys data is pushed directly from BONs for participating jurisdictions, visit nursys.com for a current participation list. Nursys is live and dynamic, and all updates to the system are reflected immediately. e-Notify allows institutions to view a nurse’s authorization to practice in all participating states, including the most up-to-date information from states in the eNLC. A nurse’s authorization to practice can be viewed as an interactive map or an easy to read list.

It is economical, provides vital information and saves staff time.

What is the cost?
Nursys e-Notify is a free service. There is no cost to utilize this system.

Is e-Notify primary source equivalent?
Through a written agreement, participating BONs have designated Nursys as a primary source equivalent database. NCSBN posts licensure and discipline information in Nursys as it is submitted by individual BONs. Licensure and discipline data is pushed from BONs to Nursys through frequent, secured updates.

For more information regarding the frequency of and availability of primary source equivalent licensure and discipline data, visit www.nursys.com.

What will the email notifications tell me?
e-Notify will alert subscribers when the following changes are made to a nurse’s record:
- License status including multistate and single-state changes within the eNLC
- License expirations
- License renewals
- Publicly available disciplinary and alert action and resolution

How often will I receive email notifications?
That’s up to you. You have the option of receiving email notifications daily, weekly or monthly. You can also customize e-Notify to send license expiration reminders to you and your nurses.

How do I create an account?
Visit www.nursys.com and click on the e-Notify button. It takes just a few minutes to register.

How many accounts can my institution have?
Can my institution register more than once?
Each institution should only register once, but can have multiple administrator accounts. The administrator account can access and assign additional users to the system. These users have the ability to view reports and manage the institution’s nurse list. If an institution has multiple locations and each facility wishes to manage their own nurse list, you can set locations. These can be used to segment your nurse list and assign notification settings.
How do I manage my nurse list?

- Nurses can be added individually or as a file (Excel, CSV, XML) can be used to enroll multiple licenses all at one time. We also offer an API for enrolling and managing your nurse list via a web service integration.
- You may add or delete licenses from the nurse list as needed.
- You have the ability to turn notifications on and off so you can have nurses on the list but choose to not receive email notifications regarding that license.
- e-Notify can send a 30-day expiration reminder via email and/or text message to the nurses on your nurse list. This is optional and does require an email address and/or cell phone number to be added for the nurse.
- You can create multiple “locations” on a single account and assign a list of nurses to each location. This allows you to segment your nurse list. Users can select via their profile to receive notifications only for nurses assigned to specified locations.

How do I enroll a nurse? What information do I need?

Enrolling your nurses is easy. First, you need his/her license number, license type and the state that issued the license. This information is used to locate the nurse directly from Nursys. For security purposes, you will be required to verify the last four digits of the nurse’s social security number and year of birth. This information is needed to match the nurse in the system; this data is not stored in e-Notify. e-Notify will require a state and zip code where the nurse is commonly practicing nursing with the authority of this license. Finally an email address and cell phone number can be included if you have selected to have e-Notify send expiration reminders to your nurses on your behalf.

I work for a very large hospital that employs several hundred nurses. I don’t have the resources or the time to compile my nurse’s information into the necessary format to enroll nurses into e-Notify. Are there any other options available to enroll nurses?

For health care facilities that employ a large number of nurses, you have the option of integrating your system with e-Notify through the application programming interface (API). API allows your system to communicate with e-Notify directly behind the scenes to share data automatically. For more information about utilizing API at your facility, please have a member of your Information Technology department review the API specifications available on the e-Notify dashboard.

What kind of reports are available?

You can sort and filter your nurse lists using various parameters. Reporting will include eNLCC status and practice privilege authorization for your nurses. A nurse’s authorization to practice in each state can be viewed as an interactive map or an easy to read list.

Can I edit a nurse’s information after he or she has been added to the system?

You can update a nurse’s information at anytime.

Can I notify my nurses that their license is about to expire directly from e-Notify?

Yes, you can. e-Notify can be configured to send license expiration e-mail reminders, as well as text message reminders, to nurses on your behalf. For text messages, the nurse’s mobile carrier’s standard message and data rates may apply.

Can I enroll several nurses to my nurse list at once?

Yes, you can. You can add multiple nurses into e-Notify using a file of nurse information. Specifications and sample files are available to help make this process seamless.
The annual pass rate for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) is calculated based on a fiscal year (July 1-June 30) for each nursing program in Arkansas. The Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) Rules require each program to achieve at least a 75 percent annual pass rate. Programs that do not achieve this minimum standard must submit documentation to the ASBN analyzing all aspects of their program. The report must identify and analyze areas contributing to the low pass rate and include a resolution plan that must be implemented.

**REGISTERED NURSE PROGRAMS**

*July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017*

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<th>NUMBER PASSING</th>
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### PRACTICAL NURSE PROGRAMS

**July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017**

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**Congratulations to Nursing Programs with 100 Percent NCLEX® Pass-Rates for 2017**

Congratulations to the following programs for achieving a 100 percent pass-rate on the NCLEX-RN® and PN® exams for fiscal year 2017:

**Four Consecutive Years 2014 to 2017**
- University of Arkansas — Monticello College of Technology — McGehee — PN

**Three Consecutive Years 2015 to 2017**
- Phillips Community College UA — Dewitt — PN

**Two Consecutive Years 2016 to 2017**
- Harding University — Searcy — BSN

**First Year 2017**
- Arkansas Northeastern College — Blytheville — PN
- Arkansas State University Newport Jonesboro — PN
- Black River Technical College — Pocahontas — PN
- University of AR — Monticello College of Technology — Crossett — PN
- University of Arkansas at Fort Smith — PN
- University of Arkansas at Monticello — ADN
- Henderson State University — Arkadelphia — BSN

Arkansas approved nursing programs did very well on the NCLEX® exams during 2016-2017. Overall, Arkansas practical nurse (PN) programs averaged more than 7 percent above the national average. The Arkansas PN average was 90.9 percent, as compared to the national average for all PN programs of 83.7 percent. Arkansas registered nurse programs pass rate averaged 84.9 percent, as compared to the national average for all RN programs of 86.2 percent. The RN average is inclusive of the baccalaureate, associate and diploma passing rate averages.
For the first time ever, on April 7, 2018, Publishing Concepts will be celebrating these events in conjunction with our Nursing Expo at the Jack Stephens Event Center. This will include all nominees with a special ceremony within the Expo Center. This change in venue will enable Publishing Concepts to showcase our nominees and winners with a FREE ADMISSION EVENT that will incorporate family and friends to help celebrate the honor.

We’re searching Arkansas to find the one nurse we can say is the most outstanding in our state. Do you know a nurse that you feel is the most compassionate, caring, and empathetic caregiver? A nurse who has given comfort or care to you, a family member, or a friend. It may be a nurse you work with. We are asking you to send us their name, where they work, phone number, and a short message expressing why you think they are the most deserving nurse in Arkansas.

For the sixth year, we are also honoring the outstanding nurse educator of the year. We are searching for an educator that has been a driving force in development and support of nursing careers. Send in your nominee’s name, place of work, and a short story of why they should receive the award. Be sure you include your contact information for us to get back in touch with you.

Nominate a candidate from your school or facility today. Deadline is February 28, 2018.

FOR ONLINE NOMINATION FORM, PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR WWW.THINKNURSE.COM.

It is important that the individual making the nomination includes their contact information for follow up.

Please email or send your nominations to the address below by no later than February 28, 2018:

Suzanne Ramsel
Nurse Compassion Award/Nurse Educator Award
P.O. Box 17427 • Little Rock, AR. 72222
sramsel@pcipublishing.com • 1-800-561-4686, ext. 101
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RN to BSN, MSN and DNP

online.uark.edu/nursing

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program, the Master of Science in Nursing degree program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program at the University of Arkansas Eleanor Mann School of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC, 20007-8771).

BAPTIST HEALTH COLLEGE
LITTLE ROCK

Benefits of getting a nursing degree at BHCLR:
- Only 3 semesters to become an RN with prerequisites
- Hands-on instruction - highest number of clinical hours in the state, multiple hospital instruction
- Large pool of nursing instructors, mentors & advisors within the program with Masters & Doctorate education
- Christian compassion & loving environment

The benefits of choosing a career in nursing are limitless!

TO BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY, VISIT:
BHCLR.edu
BaptistHealthCareers.com

Baptist Health Medical Center-Arkadelphia
Baptist Health Medical Center-Conway
Baptist Health Medical Center-Heber Springs
Baptist Health Medical Center-Hot Springs County
Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock
Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock
Baptist Health Medical Center-Stuttgart
Parway Health
Baptist Health Home Health Network
Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute
Baptist Health Extended Care Hospital

EOE M/F/Disability/Veteran Employer

Keep On Amazing
A new era of nurse licensure in the U.S. is on the horizon. The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will assist you as Arkansas implements the eNLC January 19, 2018. Additional information will be available as the implementation date approaches.

ENHANCED NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (ENLC) FAQS

Q. What is the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC)?
A. The eNLC is an updated version of the original Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) and will be implemented JANUARY 19, 2018. The eNLC increases access to care while maintaining public protection. It allows registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) to have one multistate license, with the ability to practice in person or via telehealth in both their home state (Primary State of Residence) and other eNLC states.

Arkansas legislation was approved in the 2017 General Assembly and this allowed the state to enter into the eNLC. There are new features in the provisions of the legislation of the eNLC. Licensing standards are aligned in eNLC states so all applicants for a multistate nursing license are required to meet the same standards.

Q. Are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses covered under the eNLC?
A. No. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are not issued a license under the eNLC. The APRN must have an active Arkansas APRN license and either an active Arkansas RN license or a multistate license with the privilege to practice in Arkansas.

Q. What are the benefits of the eNLC?
A. The eNLC:

- enables nurses to practice in person or provide telehealth nursing services to patients located in other eNLC states without having to obtain additional licenses.
- allows nurses to quickly cross state borders of other compact states and provide vital services in the event of a disaster.
- facilitates online nursing education.
- is cost effective as nurses do not have to obtain an additional nursing license(s), making practicing across state borders affordable and convenient.

The compact removes a burdensome expense not only for nurses, but also organizations that employ nurses and may share the expenditure of multiple licenses.

Q. Which states are part of the eNLC? (https://www.ncsbn.org/enhanced-nlc-implementation.htm)
A. Here is the current list of 26 states that have enacted the eNLC:

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

Q. What does the eNLC mean for nurses in the original Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)?
A. Your license will be grandfathered in as a multistate license if you held a multistate license on the effective date. You may retain and renew your multistate license and no further action is needed unless you move your primary state of residence to another eNLC state. You will then be required to meet all the uniform licensure requirements to receive a multistate license from that state.

Q. What are the Uniform Licensure Requirements for an eNLC multistate license?
A. An applicant for licensure in a state that is part of the eNLC must meet all of the following uniform licensure requirements in order to obtain a multistate license:

1. Has met the requirements for licensure in the home
state (primary state of residency);  
2.  
a. Has graduated from a board of nursing-approved education program; or  
b. Has graduated from a foreign education program (approved by the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country and verified by an independent credentials review agency);  
3. Has passed an English proficiency examination (applies to graduates of a foreign education program not taught in English or if English is not the individual’s native language);  
4. Has passed the NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® Examination or predecessor examination;  
5. Is eligible for or holds an active, unencumbered license (i.e., without active discipline);  
6. Has submitted to state and federal fingerprint-based criminal background checks;  
7. Has no state or federal felony convictions;  
8. Has no misdemeanor convictions related to the practice of nursing (determined on a case-by-case basis);  
9. Is not currently a participant in an alternative program;  
10. Is required to self-disclose current participation in an alternative program; and  
11. Has a valid United States Social Security number.  

Q. What if I do not meet the Uniform Licensure Requirements for an eNLC multistate license?  
A. If you are eligible for licensure in Arkansas but do not meet one or more of the eNLC uniform licensure requirements for a multistate license, you may be eligible for a single state (Valid in Arkansas only) license. Determination of issuance of a single state license depends on which uniform licensure requirement(s) you do not meet.  

Q. What is meant by home state or Primary State of Residence (PSOR)?  
A. Home state or primary state of residence means your home for legal purposes as shown on your driver’s license, voter registration, or federal income tax forms.  

Q. I had a multistate license in Arkansas. What happens to my ability to work in the states that were in the original NLC but are not members of the eNLC?  
A. As of January 19, 2018, Arkansas will withdraw from the original NLC. Subsequently, you are no longer able to practice in the four states (Colorado, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Wisconsin) if you were working there on a multistate Arkansas license. If you wish to work in any of the four states you must apply for a license in that respective state.  

Q. What does the eNLC mean for employers?  
A. Nurses will now be able to practice (in person or by telehealth) in other eNLC states with just one multistate license obtained in their primary state of residence. It is important to identify if a respective nurse has a single state or multistate license. The status of a nursing license can be verified at www.nursys.com for participating states. If the original state of nurse licensure is not a Nursys® participant, contact the original state licensing board. The eNLC is only for RNs or LPNs/VNs. APRNs are not issued multistate licenses.  

Q. If a nurse is licensed in an eNLC state is the license automatically a multistate license?  
A. No. Just because a nurse is licensed in an eNLC state, it does not mean that he or she has a multistate license. The nurse may just have a single state license. Several states will be issuing a multistate license to current licensees only upon request. The status of a nursing license can be verified at www.nursys.com for participating states. If the original state of nurse licensure is not a Nursys® participant, contact the original state licensing board.  

Resources: https://www.ncsbn.org/compacts.htm
On July 22, 2016, President Obama signed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) into law as Public Law 114-198. This law expands access to substance treatment services by extending the prescribing of buprenorphine in office-based settings to qualifying nurse practitioners for a five-year period expiring in October 2021. This law authorizes the nurse practitioner to seek a DATA waiver for up to 30 patients.

In order to be eligible for the prescribing waiver, the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) must complete at least 24 hours of initial training offered through organizations, such as American Association of Nurse Practitioners (www.aanp.org). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offers a free eight-hour DATA waiver course for treatment of opioid use disorder.

APRNs who have completed the 24 hours of required training may seek to obtain the DATA 2000 waiver for up to 30 patients by completing the Waiver Notification form. Upon completion of the training, the APRN must submit a notification of intent to SAMHSA, along with copies of continuing education certificates. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will then assign a special identification number to be included on all buprenorphine prescriptions for opioid dependency treatment. This is in addition to the APRN’s regular DEA number.

Nurse practitioners are the only group of APRNs allowed to apply for the DATA 2000 waiver at this time. The Board cannot override federal law on this issue.

In order to qualify, the Arkansas APRN must:
• have completed the 24 hours of required training.
• hold prescriptive authority through the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.
• have a collaborative practice agreement with a practicing physician who is licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act and holds a DATA 2000 waiver.
• hold an active, unrestricted DEA registration.
• prescribe only to populations included in the APRN’s area of education and certification.
• address medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder in prescribing protocols.
• incorporate the statement below into your CPA:
  • The above named APRN is authorized to request a DATA 2000 Waiver from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and attests the collaborative physician associated with this agreement is the holder of a DATA 2000 waiver.

Please fax a copy of the waiver to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing Advanced Practice Department at 501.686.2714.
Arkansas Nurses Association  
2017 Convention Registration Form  
November 2-3, 2017  
Embassy Suites Hotel, Little Rock, AR

Complete Name

(Please print name, credentials and facility you would like it to appear on your badge)

Home Address

Daytime Phone (___)  City  Fax (___)  State  Zip

☐ Check here if this will be your first ARNA Convention.

Full Convention Registration includes: ARNA Luncheon, educational resources, entertainment, and nursing continuing education contact hours.

JOIN ARNA NOW AND PAY MEMBER PRICES! CALL 501-244-2363 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE:  
(Early Bird, October 9, 2017)

☐ $205 ARNA Members  
☐ $255 Non-Members

REGISTRATION FEE (after October 9, 2017)

☐ $220 ARNA Members  
☐ $270 Non-Members

RN STUDENT/RETIRE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE:

☐ $120.00 Early Bird

☐ $135.00 (Received after October 9, 2017)

Student Registration is available by calling ARNA's office 501-244-2363.

ONE DAY CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE:

THURSDAY, November 2 (This includes Luncheon)

☐ $175 ARNA Members  
☐ $190 Non-Members  
☐ $150 RN Students/Retired  
☐ $40 Extra Tickets for Lunch

FRIDAY, November 3

☐ $135 ARNA Members  
☐ $160 Non-Members  
☐ $110 RN Student/Retired

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS:

Keynote Speaker on Thursday, November 2nd:

Holly Carpenter, RN, BSN, Interim Director, Nursing Practice and Innovation, Lead on Healthy Nurse Initiative, ANA

ARNA Luncheon - Thursday, November 2nd

ANPAC Reception - Thursday, November 2nd

Keynote Speaker on Friday, November 3rd:

Justin Caudle, Director, Healthcare Policy and Advocacy, Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc.

Posters – Thursday, November 2nd and Friday, November 3rd / Exhibit Hall - Friday, November 3rd

PAYMENT METHODS: TOTAL AMOUNT $________

☐ Checks (Payable to ARNA)  
Check Number __________

☐ Check here if are paying by credit card. Someone from the LRCVB will call you for more information.

REGISTER Online: www.arna.org

MAIL: LRCVB C/O ARNA  
P.O. Box 207  
Little Rock, AR 72203

• If rebilling of a credit card charge is necessary a $25 processing fee will be charged.
• A charge of $30 will apply to checks returned for insufficient funds.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

DEADLINE OCTOBER 2, 2017

Embassy Suites Hotel, Little Rock, AR  
(501) 537-3359 Booking Code ANA

or go to www.arna.org to Register online for Hotel/Single-$129+tax Double-$139+tax (includes breakfast)

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Written notice must be received to ARNA no later than October 14 to be eligible for a refund. An administrate fee of $30 will be charged to all refunds. All refunds will be processed after the convention.

CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION CONTACT HOURS

Arkansas Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

Attendance in full two-day convention programming and completion of a post-convention online evaluation will provide 11.75 continuing nursing education contact hours. Thursday awards 5.5 contact hours and Friday awards 6.25 contact hours. No partial day awarded.
Arkansans have paid a high price for opioid abuse—in terms of deaths, hospitalizations, and the social and psychological costs. In 2015, 392 Arkansans died of drug overdoses, a 10 percent increase from 2014, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

About half of all opioid-overdose deaths involve prescription opioids. The most common prescription opioids linked to overdose deaths include oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone and methadone.

Arkansas' prescription drug monitoring program (AR-PMP) is a database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions, identifies overprescribing problems and helps identify patients who may be seeking prescriptions from multiple providers (“doctor shopping”), which greatly increases the risk of overdose death.

Available since 2013, the AR-PMP is helping to make a positive difference in opioid prescribing and in reducing opioid deaths. The number of individuals receiving narcotic pain relievers greater than 100 MED has steadily decreased, along with extreme instances of “doctor shopping.” Individuals who visited seven or more prescribers and seven or more pharmacies in a 90-day period (7/7/90) has decreased 74 percent.

In 2016, AR-PMP access was expanded to prescribers’ “delegates.” Prescribers may delegate access to any number of staff members whom they supervise. All users must be approved for access according to statutory requirements. Access occurs through a secure website that requires a password login.

Early this year, Act 820 was signed into law to strengthen the monitoring of prescription medications in Arkansas. It requires prescribers to check the AR-PMP when prescribing a Schedule II or III opioid or a first-time benzodiazepine prescription. The few exceptions to checking AR-PMP are: before and during surgery, recovery from surgery while the patient is in a health care facility, hospice patients, nursing home patients or emergencies.

The AR-PMP calculates the morphine equivalent dose (MED) for each opioid on a patient’s history report. Narcotic pain reliever doses greater than 100 MED increase the risk of overdose and death. The MED calculation is:

\[ \text{Dose} \times \text{QTY} \times \text{Conversion Factor} / \text{Day Supply} = \text{MED} \]

The MED for each opioid is displayed in the last column and the MED Summary provides an “MED Max” value—the maximum occurrence of cumulative MED sustained for any three consecutive days. It is calculated based on the number of prescriptions dispensed during the date range requested.

Prescribers who use AR-PMP report higher confidence in prescribing opioids. Other benefits include the ability to:
- know when drug abuse or drug diversion occurs
- collect data on Schedule II through V controlled substances, plus nalbuphine, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine when dispensed to an individual
- access controlled-substance data 24/7
- access to interstate data
- help providers work together to improve patient care

AR-PMP also alerts prescribers when there is questionable patient activity. Each registered prescriber and pharmacy listed on the report will receive an email alert that a patient report is awaiting review. If not registered with AR-PMP, they will receive an alert letter directing them to register with AR-PMP to view patient reports. The alert also includes several “what to do next” options. This information should be marked confidential, kept in the patient file, and not copied or forwarded to other parties.

AR-PMP also includes links to current prescribing guidelines, and contacts for national and local addiction programs.

AR-PMP is a valuable tool to help combat opioid misuse, abuse, overdose and death, but only if you use it. AR-PMP technical assistance is available at arpmp-info@apprishealth.com or you can call the Help Desk at 855-729-8917, weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Prescribers or delegates can register at www.arkansaspmp.com.


Dr. Robertson is Arkansas’ Prescription Monitoring Program administrator.
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JOB OPENINGS

RN (3p-11p) M-F; ($5,000.00 Sign-on Bonus)
RN (11p-7a) M-F; ($3,000.00 Sign-on Bonus)
RN (7a-11p) WEO; ($3,000.00 Sign-on Bonus)
RN (7p-7a) WEO; Tuesday, 11p-7a; ($3,000.00 Sign-on Bonus)
RN (7p-7a) WEO; ($2,000.00 Sign-on Bonus)
RN Registered Nurse (RN) Pool
The full statutory citations for disciplinary actions can be found at www.arsbn.org under Nurse Practice Act, Sub Chapter 3, §17-87-309. Frequent violations are A.C.A. §17-87-309 (a)(1) “Is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing or engaged in the practice of nursing without a valid license;” (a)(2) “Is guilty of a crime or gross immorality;” (a)(4) “Is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs;” (a)(6) “Is guilty of unprofessional conduct;” and (a)(9) “Has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this chapter.” Other orders by the Board include civil penalties (CP), specific education courses (ED), and research papers (RP). Probation periods vary and may include an employee monitored nurse contract and/or drug monitoring and treatment programs.

Each individual nurse is responsible for reporting any actual or suspected violations of the Nurse Practice Act. To submit a report use the online complaint form at www.arsbn.org, or to receive additional information, contact the Nursing Practice Section at 501.686.2700 or Arkansas State Board of Nursing, 1123 South University, Suite 800, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.

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**SEPTEMBER 2017**

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