

the BRN report

VOLUME 14, NO. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

SPRING 2001

Board Studies NCLEX-RN Pass Rate

The Board established a Task Force in February 1999 to study the decline in the pass rate for first-time test takers for many California prelicensure programs. The Task Force's eight appointed members included four representatives from the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) programs and four from Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) programs. The goals of the Task Force were to:

- ☞ Identify factors that increased and decreased the NCLEX-RN pass rates for first-time test takers.
- ☞ Describe factors that appear to improve the potential for graduates of nursing programs to pass the NCLEX-RN examination on the first attempt.
- ☞ Provide recommendations to the Board of Registered Nursing and California prelicensure nursing programs for potential use to improve the NCLEX-RN pass rate.
- ☞ Identify research questions for consideration by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Research Committee.



The Task Force conducted surveys and student interviews and researched the literature. The most consistently identified factors that resulted in a lower pass rate were students for whom English was a second language; students who worked 20 hours a week or more; students who had family responsibilities at home; and academic policies that permit students to withdraw from prerequisite science courses when they are failing so they can retake them multiple times.

Additional factors identified were graduates delaying taking the exam by five or more months after graduation and limited knowledge by nursing faculty about the current NCLEX-RN test plan. Community college nursing programs identified that changes in Title 5 regulations, which eliminated supplemental selection criteria for admission to the nursing major, adversely affected many ADN programs. Current activities by the Chancellor's office acknowledging the unique needs of nursing students may correct this.

The Task Force Report accepted by the Board in December 2000 stated that this multidimensional problem requires bold action by nursing students, educators, and education administrators if the maximum number of students are to graduate from the 94 prelicensure nursing programs and successfully pass the NCLEX-RN. California needs these RNs to help address the continued, serious nursing shortage.

One Task Force recommendation was for nursing faculty to use test questions that emphasize the critical thinking and priority setting that is required of RNs.

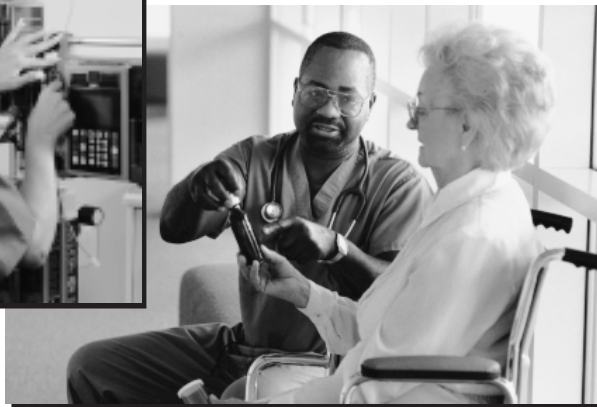
Recommendations were made to the many groups involved in preparing, testing and licensing registered nursing students. The principle recommendations were to encourage nursing students to take the licensing examination within three months after graduation; participate in assessment tests

used during the nursing program to identify areas needing review and improvement; use NCLEX-RN review materials; and take at least one preparedness examination. It was also important to strengthen English language proficiency if English was a second language.

Recommendations for nursing faculty were to

become familiar with the current NCLEX-RN Test Plan and use it to develop course objectives and test questions; use recognized assessment tests that are specific to their content area to evaluate student preparedness, course content, and course delivery; and to use test questions consistently that apply content to patient care situations and emphasize the

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Registered Nurses!

Please see page 6 for answers to important questions about your nursing practice

the BRN report

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Associate Editor

Heidi J. Goodman
Managing Editor

Brence Davis & Miles Bristow, *Graphic Design*
DCA Communications & Education Division

Contributors

Louise Bailey, Jody Curto, Katie Daugherty,
Dawn Kammerer, Jacque Kelly, Colleen
Kinsley-Greenlaw, Kathy Meyer, Alcidia
Valim, Janette Wackerly

Purpose

The purpose of The BRN Report is to inform registered nurses of current laws related to nursing, Board policies and activities, and issues pertaining to the regulation of nursing practice and education.

The BRN Report is printed in Sacramento, CA, and is the official publication of the California Board of Registered Nursing. The newsletter is mailed at bulk rates. Authorization is granted to reproduce items; acknowledgment is appreciated.

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

MISSION STATEMENT

Protect the health and safety of consumers and promote quality registered nursing in the state of California. To accomplish this we will:

- *Establish and uphold competency standards, provide guidance and interpretation, prevent patient harm, and intervene with discipline and rehabilitation.*
- *Serve the public in a customer-oriented, well-managed, and respectful manner.*
- *Provide employees with the opportunity for satisfying work in an atmosphere of shared commitment.*

A Note to the Reader

This section explains terms which appear in the articles and provides the Board of Registered Nursing's addresses, phone numbers, Web site address, and fax numbers.

"Board" refers collectively to the nine appointed members. The "Board" is the Board of Registered Nursing's policy-making body that has responsibility for interpretation and enforcement of the Nursing Practice Act.

"BRN" is the Board of Registered Nursing. This is the state agency within the Department of Consumer Affairs that has the responsibility for implementation of Board policy and programs.

"NPA" refers to the Nursing Practice Act with Rules and Regulations. The NPA contains laws and regulations that govern the practice of registered nurses in California. It consists of sections 2700-2838 of the Business and Professions Code and Title 16, Division 14, of the California Code of Regulations. Nurses are responsible for knowledge of subsequent changes in the law. *The BRN Report* is one mechanism for informing registered nurses of these changes.

"RN(s)" is the abbreviation for registered nurse(s).

Board and BRN mailing address: P.O. Box 944210
Sacramento, CA 94244-2100

Street addresses and phone numbers:

400 R Street, Suite 4030
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-3350 Fax: (916) 327-4402

1170 Durfee Avenue, Suite G
South El Monte, CA 91733
(626) 575-7080 Fax: (626) 575-7090

Web site: www.rn.ca.gov

Requests for additional copies of this issue of *The BRN Report*, items mentioned in the articles, previously published articles, and back issues can be made to either office.

Meet the Board Members

The BRN Report will present a profile of one or two members of the BRN's Board in each issue. There are nine members on the Board — three who represent the public at large; five who are registered nurses (three engaged in direct patient care, one in nursing education, and one in nursing administration); and one member who is a licensed physician.

Sharon Ecker

Elected by the Board's members to the position of Vice President, Sharon Ecker is now entering her fifth year of service as a Board member. She was appointed by former governor Pete Wilson in 1996 to the Board as a member representing direct practice nursing. Her term expires June 1, 2002.

Ecker received her associate's degree in nursing at De Anza College in Cupertino. Her professional experience consists of being a flight nurse, working in ICU and CCU, labor and delivery, and NICU. Citing her early experience as a flight nurse as one of her career's greatest challenges, Ecker reflected on the rewards of providing critical care to populations in remote portions of the southern California desert. She then went on to help establish a clinic for the Native American tribes along the California-Nevada border. She feels that providing care for those who would have no other access was truly gratifying work.

Ecker is currently practicing nursing in the post-anesthesia unit of St. Joseph's Hospital in Stockton where she has worked for over nineteen years among its various patient-care units.



Sharon Ecker

A resident of Fair Oaks, a suburb of Sacramento, Ecker's other interests include travel, creative landscaping, art, and gourmet cooking. She is a member of the Directors Circle at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, a supporting member of the Yosemite National Institute and has been a campaign volunteer for the Republican Party.

Along with holding the office of Vice President of the Board, Ecker is a member of the Administrative Committee, chairperson of the Nursing Practice Committee, and member of the Diversion/Discipline Committee. She previously served as a member of the Education/Licensing Committee and the Legislative Committee.

Recently, Ecker made these comments about her participation on the Board: Despite more than two decades of nursing experience in a variety of settings, my role as a Board member has further broadened my education in the challenges and complexities of this exciting and constantly changing profession. This enhanced education is just one of the many reasons I feel so fortunate to serve on this board.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

Board members elected Sandra L. Erickson, B.A., CRNA, as President and Sharon Ecker, A.A., RN, as Vice President at their December 2000 meeting.

Genevieve D.R. Deutsch, RNC, OGNP, and Judith Jonilonis, B.B.A., RN, CNOR, completed their terms as Board members. The Board acknowledges and greatly appreciates their contributions.

DCA Annual Report Reflects BRN Activities for 1999–2000

The BRN is one of 26 boards, committees, or commissions within the state's Department of Consumer Affairs. The BRN summarized its activities for the 1999–2000 fiscal year and presented its information to the Department for inclusion in its annual report. The year's statistics are reprinted here to provide you with a description of the BRN's accomplishments.

FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000

Item	Number
Licensing Activity	
Applications Received	22,371
Applications Denied	34
Licenses Issued	11,745
Total Active Licenses	250,207
Licenses Renewed	127,939
RN Pre-licensure Program Approvals	
Programs approved	23
Continuing Education	
CE Providers	3,351
CE Audits	3,212
Enforcement Program	
Complaints Received	1,514
Administrative Outcomes	
Against Licenses	
• Revocation	68
• Surrender of License	19
• Probation with Suspension	0
• Suspension Only	2
• Probation Only	70
• Licenses Denied	8
Petitions for Reinstatement of Revoked Licenses	
• Granted	7
• Denied	6
Diversion Program	
• Self-referrals	39
• Board Referrals	129
• Total Number of Participants	398
• Successful Completions	65

Board Studies Pass Rate ...

(continued from page 1)

critical thinking and priority setting that is required of RNs.

Several recommendations were made for nursing program administration and college/university administration. These were to include discussions about the NCLEX-RN test plan with all faculty as part of faculty development; sponsor item-writing workshops as part of faculty development; incorporate an assessment of language proficiency, reading level, and reading comprehension as part of counseling of applicants to the nursing major; and develop techniques to identify at-risk students early so remediation plans can be implemented.

It was requested that the BRN seek mandated funds from the Legislature or a grant to support a research project that would both develop techniques to identify high-risk-for-failure nursing students and develop effective remediation techniques; continue to monitor nursing programs having low NCLEX-RN pass rates; and research the reading comprehension level of prelicensure students and its impact on passing the licensing examination on the first attempt.

A copy of this report has been mailed to all prelicensure nursing programs and other state licensing boards since a decrease in the pass rate is of concern in many other states. Additional information can be found on the BRN's Web site.

NCLEX-RN Development Reflects Participation of California Registered Nurses

California's RNs are involved as item writers and item reviewers for the licensing exam known as NCLEX-RN. You may have noticed that each issue of the BRN's newsletter presents an ad from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing inviting RNs to participate in the test development process.

Item writers are those who create the questions used for the NCLEX and item reviewers are those who review the items created by the item writers.

California is well represented in this process and the nurses who participated in meetings held during 2000 are listed below as an acknowledgment of their contribution to these important activities. Those who have participated have commented about how positive the experience has been and encourage other RNs to respond to the National Council's invitation.

Item Writers

Peggy G. Kalowes
 Laura Smith McKenna
 Nancy Mitchell

Clinical Specialty

Med-Surg
 Mental Health
 Med-Surg

Item Reviewers

Maria Biddenback
 Deborah Conaway
 Janis Jones
 Cathy McCaughey
 Bridget K. Parsh
 Vincent Umscheid

Clinical Specialty

Telemetry
 Med-Surg
 Mental Health
 OB
 Peds
 ICU

Master Pool Review

Marlene Nadler-Moodie

Clinical Specialty

Geri/Ortho/Mental Health

Licensing Exam Results

JANUARY 1 – JUNE 30, 2000

First Time Candidates	Total	Pass	% Pass
California Graduates	2,066	1,715	83.0%
California Nongraduates	41	38	92.7%
Other U.S.-Educated Candidates	324	238	73.5%
Non-U.S.-Educated Candidates	1,028	325	31.6%
Total First-Time Candidates	3,459	2,316	67.0%
Repeating Candidates	Total	Pass	% Pass
California Graduates	696	322	46.3%
California Nongraduates	18	9	50.0%
Other U.S.-Educated Candidates	161	79	49.1%
Non-U.S.-Educated Candidates	2,281	301	13.2%
Total Repeating Candidates	3,156	711	22.5%
GRAND TOTAL	6,615	3,027	45.8%



To learn how you can become a member of National Council's NCLEX™ item development panels, call the National Council Item Development Hot Line at 312/787-6555, Ext. 496.

Advisory Statement

Supervision of LVNs in Dialysis Settings

Background

The Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) has received inquiries from nursing organizations and individual nurses about the legal scope of practice for an RN who may be asked to: delegate to the LVN patient assessment for the purpose of determining a treatment; delegate to the LVN intravenous medication administration as the treatment; and direct the LVN to administer intravenous medication through a central line. These questions have arisen in part due to practices at free standing dialysis facilities.

Business and Profession Code, Section 2725, Nursing Practice Act, authorizes registered nurses to assess patients, determine abnormality, implement a medical treatment plan, refer, report, or implement a standardized procedure, and administer medication by all routes. California Code of Regulations 1443.5 (4) states that the RN *delegates tasks to subordinates based on the legal scope of practice of the subordinates and on the preparation and capability needed in the tasks to be delegated, and effectively supervises nursing care being given by subordinates.*



Interpretation

The BRN's interpretation of law governing the practice of registered nursing is that the RN function of assessment to determine abnormality, determine the appropriate treatment, and implement a treatment for the abnormality such as administration of an intravenous medication for a hemodialysis patient **cannot** be delegated by the RN to the LVN.

The RN is not authorized under the Nursing Practice Act to delegate or supervise the LVN administering intravenous medication. The BRN continues to interpret the law that RNs can delegate and supervise Intravenous Therapy certified LVNs in accord with Business and Professions Code, Section 2860.5 and California Code of Regulations, Article 8, Section 2542, which gives certified LVNs the authority to superimpose intravenous solutions of electrolytes, nutrients, vitamins, blood and blood products.

Diversion Program Seeks Applicants for Diversion Evaluation Committees

The BRN Diversion Program is actively recruiting applicants for its Diversion Evaluation Committees (DECs). There are currently 13 DECs located statewide. Each committee is composed of three RNs, a physician, and a public member who each have expertise in chemical dependency or mental health. The committee's duties and responsibilities are specified in Business and Professions Code Section 2770.8.

To ensure diversity of the committees, the BRN encourages applications from members of all ethnic groups.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please request an application by calling (916) 322-3724 or download the application from the Web site www.rn.ca.gov. The form can be located under the forms section of the Diversion Program screen.

DIVERSION Program

To contact the Diversion Program at the Board of Registered Nursing, call (916) 322-3350 and press 4 for Diversion Program staff.

To reach the program 24 hours a day via our contractor, Managed Health Network, in California call (800) 522-9198, and outside California, call (415) 491-7449.

Program participants as of 12/22/00 400

RNs successfully completing the Program as of 12/22/00 792

Nursing Practice: Questions and Answers

The following questions cover a variety of issues related to nursing practice.

Question: *How have the January 2000 changes in pharmacy laws affected the clinical pharmacist's authority to order and adjust prescribers' orders in specific types of practice settings?*

Since 1997, the BRN has determined that a RN can accept and implement an order from a clinical pharmacist functioning in accordance with pharmacy laws and the written policies, procedures, and protocols approved within a specific health care organization as outlined in Business and Professions Code (BPC) Section 4052. The RN may regard orders from a clinical pharmacist as transmitted orders from the physician.

With physician oversight, the clinical pharmacist may:

1. Order and perform patient assessment functions, such as temperature, pulse, and respiration, related to routine drug therapy.
2. Order laboratory tests related to drug therapy.
3. Administer drugs and biologicals by injection pursuant to a prescriber's order including the administration of immunizations, provided the administration is performed under the supervision of the provider.
4. Adjust the drug regimen of a patient pursuant to a specific written order or authorization of the patient's prescriber and in accordance with agency policies, procedures, and protocols.

Adjusting the drug regimen does not include substituting a different drug except as authorized by BPC Section 4073.

A patient's prescriber may prohibit, by written instruction, any adjustment or change in the patient's drug regimen by the pharmacist. [(BPC Section 4052(B))]

For additional information, please refer to *The BRN Report* Spring 1997 Practice Insight article "Accepting Orders from

Clinical Pharmacists" or the BRN Web site www.rn.ca.gov for the advisory statement "Acceptance and Implementation of Orders."

To obtain a copy of the pertinent pharmacy laws referred to in this answer, access the Board of Pharmacy Web site at www.pharmacy.ca.gov.

Question: *Can an RN perform a sigmoidoscopy examination and the associated biopsy procedures?*

Yes. It is within the RN scope of practice (as described in BPC Section 2725) for an RN to perform a sigmoidoscopy examination and biopsy provided she or he has the specific training, education, experience, and competency to perform the procedure and there is an approved agency-specific written standardized procedure authorizing performance. The standardized procedure should comply with the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 1474, Standardized Procedure Guidelines.

Question: *Can an RN assess that a patient has expired?*

Yes. It is within the RN scope of practice to make an assessment that a patient has expired provided the RN is knowledgeable and competent to do so and there is a written policy and procedure authorizing performance of this procedure. Individual agencies should specify the exact assessment parameters (such as cessation of pulse, respirations, blood pressure, neurological or pupillary response) and documentation requirements expected of the RN performing this function.

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Q & A, *continued*

Question: *Is it within the RN's scope of practice to administer immunizations without a physician order?*

Yes. In accordance with BPC Section 2725(b)(3), RNs may administer any immunization without a physician order as long as the RN possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities to do so competently using current Center for Disease Control schedules and guidelines. Although the Nursing Practice Act provides the RN the authority to administer immunizations without a physician order, agency policies and procedures may require that the RN obtain a physician order. Typically, physician offices and free clinics have medical orders which cover immunization administration in these practice settings.

Question: *Is the individual RN's refusal to work additional hours or shifts grounds for discipline of an RN's license on the grounds of patient abandonment?*

It depends. For an act to be considered patient abandonment, the RN must have first *accepted* the patient assignment and then *severed* the nurse-patient relation-

ship without giving reasonable notice to the appropriate person, such as the patient or supervisor.

Ordinarily, the BRN does not discipline the RN for exercising her or his right to make an individual professional judgment to accept or decline additional or extended work hours beyond the routinely assigned shift. However, it should be noted that the BRN has no jurisdiction over employment or contract issues.

The BRN's advisory statement "Abandonment of Patients" can be obtained from the BRN office or viewed on the Web site www.rn.ca.gov.

Question: *Does the BRN endorse any specific type of liability or malpractice coverage for registered nurses?*

No. The BRN does not endorse any specific type of professional liability or malpractice coverage. Nursing journals and professional nursing organizations may be helpful in providing possible sources of this type of insurance coverage.

Question: *What is meant by the phrase "professional boundaries violations"?*

Professional boundary violations occur when an RN fails to act in the patient's best interest or becomes inappropriately involved in the patient's personal relationships. It is always the responsibility of the health care professional to establish appropriate boundaries with existing and former patients. Sexual misconduct is an extreme form of boundary violation and includes any behavior that is sexually demeaning or harassing, or can be reasonably inter-

preted as sexual by the patient. Even if a patient initiates the sexual contact, a sexual relationship with the patient is considered sexual misconduct for the health professional. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., publishes a brochure called "Professional Boundaries"; ordering information can be obtained by calling (312) 787-6555.

The California Department of Consumer Affairs offers a publication "Professional Therapy Never Includes Sex" (1999). For ordering information, go to the Department of General Services Web site www.dgs.ca.gov, click on Publications, and then click on price list or ordering form. Locate this title under Consumer Affairs. You can also call the Publications Section at (916) 928-4630 for information; orders are not accepted over the phone.

Question: *Who should have a current (April 2000) Nursing Practice Act available for day-to-day reference as needed?*

All RNs with an active California license, anyone who employs RNs, any agency that interfaces with RNs in delivery of patient care services, educational programs preparing students for RN licensure or advanced practice, registered nursing students, advanced practice students, and BRN continuing education providers, among others.

Please see the inside back cover of this issue for ordering information.



Financial Resources for Nursing Education

Nursing students and RNs have the opportunity to obtain financial support for their education through programs of the Health Professions Education Foundation. The Foundation's two funds, the Health Professions Education Fund and the Registered Nurse Education Fund, provide scholarships and educational loan repayment

grants. The Registered Nurse Education Fund is supported by the \$5.00 assessed when RNs renew their licenses. This fee was made permanent by legislation that became effective July 22, 1999. Please note that deadlines in 2001 for the submission of applications are March 28 and September 12.



HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Giving Golden Opportunities



We Offer Scholarships & Loan Repayment Grants To:

- ✓ Associate Degree Nursing Students
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- ✓ Primary Health Care Providers & Students including:

Nurse Practitioners	Physician Assistants
Certified Nurse Midwives	Dentists & Dental Hygienists
- ✓ Allied Health Care Students including:

Respiratory Care Technicians	Pharmacists
Occupational Therapists	Laboratory Technicians
Occupational Therapy Assistants	Radiological Technicians
Pharmacy Technicians	Social Workers

Recipients Must Agree to Practice in Medically Underserved Areas of California

Mission Statement

The mission of the Foundation is to improve health care in underserved areas of California by providing financial support to health professional students dedicated to serving in those areas.

Health Professions Education Foundation

1600 9th Street, Suite 436
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (800) 773-1669

Web Site: www.healthprofessions.ca.gov

Continuing Education Corner

AUDIT NOTIFICATION

The BRN provides information to the Department of Consumer Affairs related to its activities during the fiscal year. One item that is included is the number of audits of RNs related to their compliance with the regulation requiring continuing education as a condition of relicensure.

Registered nurses who are selected for an audit are notified by the BRN that the audit is taking place. If the continuing education information is submitted with the renewal request, then the continuing

education providers are contacted directly for confirmation of information of the RN's completion of the course. If the renewal occurs online, the RN will be contacted and the BRN will request that the RN send copies of the continuing education certificates or other documentation for the two years prior to the date the license expired. The RN is then contacted about the outcome of the audit.

The BRN reminds RNs that they must keep continuing education certificates or transcripts for a period of four years.



INTERNET COURSES



Increasing numbers of continuing education providers (CEPs) are asking about offering courses by computer or over the Internet. Registered nurses are asking if such courses would meet the continuing education requirement for license renewal.

These methods of course presentation would be considered independent study and meet the BRN's requirements as long as the course content and instructors/authors meet the requirements specified in the California Code of Regulations related to continuing education. The CEP is required to develop a mechanism to assure that the student has successfully completed the course and is responsible for all record keeping.

BRN Statistics

February 28, 2001

	Active	Inactive	TOTAL
Registered Nurses	255,145	18,584	273,729
Clinical Nurse Specialists	1,450	0	1,450
Listed Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurses	409	13	422
Nurse Anesthetists	1,503	18	1,521
Nurse-Midwives	1,047	15	1,062
Nurse-Midwife Furnishing	498	0	498
Nurse Practitioners	10,156	177	10,333
Nurse Practitioner Furnishing	6,309	12	6,321
Public Health Nurses	40,233	2,413	42,646
Continuing Education Providers (CEPs)	3,380	-	3,380

Legislative Update

The following bills related to the practice of nursing were chaptered into law during the 2000 legislative session. Although these bills address many subjects, each affects registered nursing in some way. Unless otherwise stated, they became effective January 2001.

AB 1731 (Shelley) Chapter 451, Statutes of 2000 Long-term Health Care Facilities

AB 1731 requires the Department of Health Services, on or before May 1, 2001, to determine the need and provide recommendations for any increase in the minimum number of nursing hours per patient day and analyze the relationship between staffing levels and quality of care in skilled nursing facilities. DHS is required to prepare a report on its analysis and recommendations and submit this report to the Legislature. It is the intent of the Legislature to increase the minimum number of direct care nursing hours per patient day, in skilled nursing facilities, to 3.5 hours by 2004, or to whatever staffing levels DHS determines are required to provide nursing home residents with a safe environment and quality skilled nursing care.

AB 1760 (Kuehl) Chapter 148, Statutes of 2000 Health Facilities: Regulations

AB 1760 extends the date for the Department of Health Services to adopt regulations that establish minimum numerical licensed nurse-to-patient ratios by licensed nurse classification and by hospital unit for all specified health facilities to January 1, 2002. It requires DHS to review the regulations five years after adoption and report to the Legislature regarding any proposed changes. Effective Date: July 21, 2000.

AB 2516 (Scott) Chapter 360, Statutes of 2000 Nurses: Registered Nurse Education Program

AB 2516 extends participation in the Registered Nurse Education Program to allow students who agree in writing, prior to graduation, to serve in an eligible state-operated health facility.

SB 88 (Sher) Chapter 492, Statutes of 2000 Overtime Compensation

SB 88 authorizes the exemption from premium overtime pay, as required under current law, for a certified nurse anesthetist, certified nurse-midwife, or a certified nurse practitioner who is primarily engaged in performing duties for which a certification is required. Effective date: September 16, 2000.

SB 648 (Ortiz) Chapter 835, Statutes of 2000 Chlamydia: Treatment of Partner

SB 648 revises the definition of venereal disease to include chlamydia and authorizes a certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, and a physician assistant to dispense, furnish, or provide prescription antibiotic drugs to the partner(s) of a patient with a chlamydia infection without examination of the patient's sexual partner(s).

SB 1364 (Johnston) Chapter 941, Statutes of 2000 Genetics: Test Disclosure

SB 1364 provides for genetic counseling to be provided by a certified advanced practice nurse with a genetics specialty.

SB 1549 (Poochigian) Chapter 281, Statutes of 2000 Education School Personnel

SB 1549 requires the Department of Education, on or before June 15, 2001, to develop and recommend to the Board of Education, and the Board to adopt regulations concerning the administration of medication to public school students. These regulations will be developed in consultation with parents, representatives of the medical and nursing professions, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Advisory Commission on Special Education, and the Department of Health Services. The Board of Registered Nursing may also designate a liaison to consult with the Board of Education in the adoption of these regulations.

SB 1764 (Chesbro) Chapter 305, Statutes of 2000 Health Care: Alcohol and other drug abuse

SB 1764 requires the Legislative Analyst to review existing data and research relating to the cost effectiveness of substance abuse treatment parity in health care service plans and disability insurance policies and report its findings to the Legislature.

Disciplinary Actions and Reinstatements

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 2750, the Board of Registered Nursing has authority to discipline a registered nursing license for violation of the Nursing Practice Act. The disciplinary penalty is determined based on a number of factors, including, but not limited to, severity and recency of offense, rehabilitation evidence, current ability to practice safely, mitigating factors, and past disciplinary history.

Although the disciplinary list appears lengthy, it does not reflect widespread problems in the nursing field. The BRN takes action against approximately 150 licensees annually, a figure which represents less than one-tenth of one percent of the total population of 270,000 California RNs. Following are disciplinary actions the Board imposed between 10/1/99 and 6/30/00. Please refer to the end of this section for definitions of the terms used.

The Board recommends that the accuracy and currency of the information be verified with the BRN before any decisions are made based on the information. If you have questions regarding these disciplinary actions, please call (916) 322-3350.

BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS

October 1, 1999, to June 30, 2000

Note: This list represents 9 months of disciplinary actions and reinstatements.

A

ADAMS, William Anthony

(RN 537464)

Clearlake, CA

Convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol. Failed to notify the Board of conviction prior to issuance of license. Revocation effective 6-8-00.

ADKINS, Nathan (RN 566402)

Napa, CA

Convicted of assault, battery, and alcohol-related offenses. Application for licensure approved. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 3-9-00.

ALBERTSON, Jeanne (Jeanne M. Gulshen) (RN 299881)

Vista, CA

Disciplined in another state for diverting controlled substances for her own personal use. Surrender effective 2-4-00.

APPLEBEE, Lori Michelle (Lori Michelle Garoutte) (RN 511854)

San Jose, CA

Failed to follow a physician's order and to notify the physician of a significant drop in blood pressure of a patient. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 1-5-00.

AUSTIN, Laura Mae (RN 409547)

Temecula, CA

Administered medication through an intravenous line instead of triple lumen catheter, resulting in renal failure. Revocation effective 5-7-00.

B

BALTAZAR, Marieces Asuncion

(RN 502606)

North Hollywood, CA

Falsified home nursing care visit notes to support false claims for payment for Medicare reimbursement. Revocation effective 3-25-00.

BANIAK, Thomas G. (Thomas Gerald Baniak) (RN 412652, NA 1098)

Folsom, CA

Obtained, possessed, and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 1-6-00.

BANYAN, Marjorie Mae (Marjorie Erickson Banyan) (RN 121802)

Napa, CA

Disciplined by another state for failing to notify attending physician of change in patient's condition, resulting in patient death. Surrender effective 4-22-00.

BARGER, Seth Abraham (RN 561011)

Arcata, CA

Convicted of possession of a controlled substance. Failed to report a conviction on his application. Application for licensure approved. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 11-21-99.

BECHTEL, Debra Ann (Debra Ann Rossi Bechtel) (RN 347041)

Fairfield, CA

Falsified, made grossly incorrect, and inconsistent entries pertaining to controlled substances. Obtained controlled substances illegally. Surrender of license effective 10-21-99.

BERNSTEIN, Patti Marie (Patti Marie Rossi, Patti Marie Rossi Bernstein) (RN 415475)

Laguna Niguel, CA

Administered medication through an arterial line instead of an IV access line. Failed to assess patient and document condition in hospital and patient record. Revocation effective 6-9-00.

BLACKWELL, Cynthia Ann

Clovis, CA

Act involving theft of property from coworkers. Convicted of assault with bodily injury. Application for licensure denied effective 4-22-00.

BRADTL, Annette Lea (RN 492235)

Walnut, CA

Obtained, possessed, and self-administered controlled substances illegally. Conviction related to degrading, immoral, or vicious practices or habitual drunkenness in presence of children. Revocation effective 6-9-2000.

BORDNER, Paula Anne (RN 480895)

Bodega Bay, CA

Flushed potassium chloride mistakenly into patient's central line instead of normal saline, causing patient death. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 3-25-00.

BOROKHOVICH, Emil Romanovich (RN 480897, NP 7819, NPF 7819)

Los Angeles, CA

Convicted of obtaining and possessing a controlled substance illegally by presenting a forged prescription. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 2-24-00.

(continued on next page)

Disciplinary Actions and Reinstatements *(continued from previous page)*

BRAR, Baljit Kaur

Fontana, CA

Involved in the subversion of a licensing examination. Convicted of petty theft.

Application for licensure denied effective 3-9-00.

BRAR, Simerjit Kaur

Fontana, CA

Involved in the subversion of a licensing examination. Application for licensure denied effective 3-9-00.

BRAVER, Kevin Sandy (RN 512798)

Oxnard, CA

Convicted of corporal injury to a spouse. Revocation stayed, placed on two years' probation effective 3-9-00.

BROCK, Kendra Rebecca

(RN 503409)

San Francisco, CA

Convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol and of convictions related to obtaining controlled substances by fraud. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 10-31-99.

BRUBAKER, Susan Lynne

(RN 507410)

San Anselmo, CA

Charges: Self-administered controlled substances. Convicted of obtaining aid by misrepresentation. Surrender effective 5-20-00.

BUCKNER-HUNTER, Francis

(RN 195115)

Los Angeles, CA

Multiple petty theft convictions.

Revocation effective 6-9-00.



CALLAHAN, Peggy Imojean (Peggy Imojean Rogers, Peggy I. Anderson)

(RN 428061)

Modesto, CA

Conviction related to possession and self-administration of a controlled substance. Revocation effective 1-5-00.

CANTERO, William M. (William Mendoza Cantero) (RN 410650)

Los Angeles, CA

Convicted of soliciting or engaging in lewd or dissolute conduct and of possession of a controlled substance. Revocation effective 12-8-99.

CARINGAL, Leogildo Magbuhos

(Leogildo M. Caringal) (RN 185326)

Los Angeles, CA

Failure to investigate the location of a patient's missing nasal airway, assess respiratory status, and advise physician of deteriorating condition. Revocation effective 1-29-00.

CARSTEN-BAKER, Myriah L.

San Diego, CA

Convicted of criminal trespass, domestic violence, and violation of a court order. Disciplined by another state in relation to patient documentation. Application for licensure denied effective 6-9-00.

CASTRO, Rameila Jan (Rameila Jan Yasin) (RN 343933)

Lodi, CA

Obtained, possessed, and administered a controlled substance illegally. Revocation effective 4-22-00.

CHAMPEAU, Donna Lynne (Donna Lynne Redfern) (RN 251602)

Grass Valley, CA

Convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol. Used alcohol in a manner dangerous to self and others. Revocation stayed, placed on two years' probation effective 6-24-00.

CHAPMAN, Debra Jay (RN 429302)

Ridgecrest, CA

Conviction related to unauthorized prescribing and administration of dangerous drug to a patient. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 5-14-00.

CHESTER, Marlene (RN 524964)

Pomona, CA

Disciplined by another state for failing to undergo a physical or mental exam and for failing to appear for an administrative hearing. Revocation effective 6-8-00.

CILURSO, June Eva (RN 356112)

Corte Madera, CA

Violated terms of board probation. Revocation effective 1-14-00.

CLAYTON, Joann K. (Joanne R.

Clayton, Roberta Joanne Clayton)

(RN 199758)

Riverside, CA

Falsified, made grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent entries in hospital and patient records. Self-administered a controlled substance illegally while on duty as a RN. Revocation effective 12-8-99.

CLEMENT, Keith Alan (RN 511467)

San Francisco, CA

Charged with unlawful possession of controlled substances for the purpose of sale. Revocation effective 5-20-00.

COLLINS, Sarah Alyce (Sarah Alyce Sandau, Sarah Alyce Porter)

(RN 512394)

Santa Rosa, CA

Administered potassium chloride mistakenly into patient's central line instead of Lasix, causing patient death. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 2-6-00.

COOK, Burr Lynn (RN 430074)

Mammoth, CA

Reinstatement of RN license. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 2-3-00.

COPPERUD, Catherine A. (Catherine Ann Millan) (RN 443369)

Concord, CA

Self-administered controlled substances without lawful authority. Inattentive to procedures in operating room. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 2-13-00.

CROW, Wilda Mae (Wilda Crow Merkobrad, Wilda Mae Crow Merkobrad)

(RN 88691, PHN 10175)

Encinitas, CA

Failed to comply with an order to compel psychiatric examination. Revocation effective 5-7-00.



DEAN, Toni (Toni Noland-Dean)

(RN 369442)

Palmdale, CA

Obtained, possessed and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 2-6-00.

DETTY, Sandra L. (RN 456186)

Bullhead City, AZ

Obtained dangerous drugs from her employer illegally. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 5-14-00.

DHALIWAL, Rimplejit Singh

(RN 492830)

Bakersfield, CA

Convicted of willfully and unlawfully annoying or molesting a child under the age of eighteen years; and, of driving under the influence of alcohol. Revocation effective 5-18-00.

DILLION, Mary T. (Mary T. Theresa)

(RN 363266)

San Pedro, CA

Convicted of theft, and of forgery related to filling a prescription for a controlled substance. Obtained and possessed a controlled substance illegally. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 1-29-00.

DOYLE, Carolyn (RN 349506)

Colorado Springs, CO

Disciplined by another state for failing to comply with an agreement with that state's impaired professional nurse program. Revocation effective 5-20-00.

DUNN, Lisa M. (RN 555004)

Wichita, KS

Disciplined by another state for failing to disclose criminal and substance abuse history on the license application. Revocation effective 6-24-00.

E**EATON, Laura Lee (Laura Lee Miller****Eaton, Laura Lee Miller, Laura Lee****Dale)** (RN 521730)

Roseville, CA

Falsified, made grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent entries in hospital and patient records. Surrender of license effective 10-31-99.

F**FISHER, Tricia**

Shasta, CA

Convicted of offenses related to driving under the influence of alcohol. Application for licensure approved. Upon successful completion of the licensure examination, license will be issued and placed on five years' probation. Decision effective 10-20-99.

FLEMING, Flora (RN 493125)

San Mateo, CA

Violated terms of probation. Revocation stayed, placed on two years' probation effective 3-25-00.

FORBES, Deborah Lynn (RN 462791)

Indio, CA

Conviction of involuntary manslaughter. Possessed and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Revocation effective 2-10-00.

FORESTER, Sandy Alan (RN 359706)

Lynwood, Washington

Acts of sexual abuse and misconduct with patients. Revocation effective 5-12-2000. Petition for Writ of Mandate and Stay filed 5-5-00. Superior Court denied Stay effective 5-10-00. Superior Court denied Writ effective 10-10-00. Board's Decision upheld.

FRENTNER, Sharyn Sue (RN 214028,

NP 4132)

Camarillo, CA

Disciplined by another state for gross or repeated negligence and failing to maintain standards of practice or education. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 5-14-00.

G**GAMRON, Laura (Laura Gamron,****Laura Ann Smith, Laura Ann Smith****Gamron)** (RN 408582)

Newbury Park, CA

Obtained, possessed and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 11-25-99.

GARLEY, Jacquelyn Marie**(Jacquelyn Marie Wegienka,****Jacquelyn Marie Wegienka Garley)**

(RN 260393)

Union City, CA

Violated terms of probation. Surrender effective 4-22-00.

GILL, Dina Anne (RN 564336)

Sacramento, CA

Convictions for petty theft. Application for licensure approved. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 2-24-00.

GINDEEL, Faysal A.

Las Vegas, NV

Convicted of vehicular manslaughter. Application for licensure approved. Revocation effective 5-20-00.

GORDON, Colleen (Colleen Gordon-Reeves, Coleen Theresa Cornwall)

(RN 462953)

Thousand Oaks, CA

Falsified, made grossly incorrect, and grossly inconsistent entries in hospital and patient records, pertaining to controlled substances. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 12-31-99.

GRAHAM, Shelby Jean (RN 399412,

NA 0985)

Disciplined by another state for signing out narcotics that remained unaccounted for and exhibiting inappropriate behavior while on duty. Disciplined by a different state for failing to submit to monthly drug screen reports. Upon successful completion of licensure examination, license will be issued and placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 3-15-00.

GRIMM, Artith Loann (Artith Loann**Davidson)** (RN 351915, PHN 41139)

Turlock, CA

Convicted of offenses related to possession of a controlled substance for sale. Revocation effective 10-28-99.

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Disciplinary Actions and Reinstatements *(continued from previous page)*

H

HAN, He Sook (Dorris Han)
(RN 516624)

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Failed to notify physician of decline in patient's condition and to assess condition of patients. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 1-6-00.

HANSEN, Mary Louise (Mary Louise Hansen Cramer) (RN 45812)

Sacramento, CA
Obtained excessive amounts of controlled substances by deceit from multiple physicians. Self-administered controlled substances illegally. Revocation effective 4-22-00.

HAYES, Danielle Marie (RN 488121)
Oakland, CA

Possessed and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Convicted of possession of a completed check with intent to defraud. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 11-25-99.

HELMAN, Beth Ellen (Beth Ellen Christopherson) (RN 308122)

Shingle Springs, CA
Obtained and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Failed to document information in patients' charts. Revocation effective 11-19-99.

HEMPLING, William Hernick

Metairie, LA
Convicted of domestic assault and battery. Application for licensure denied effective 10-22-99.

HENNEFER, Roberta E. (Roberta Eileen Sabin, Robin Sabin, Robin Sabine, Robin Sabins, Robin Savin)
(RN 299119)

Springs Creek, NV
Convicted of obtaining controlled substances by deceit or concealment. Revocation effective 2-20-00.

HILL, Camille Juleen (Camille J. Juleen Awad-Hill, Camille Juleen Slawson, Camille Juleen Wilson, Camille Julenharvey) (RN 42423)

Pasadena, CA
Incapable of safe practice as a registered nurse. Revocation effective 4-08-00.

HILL, Tori Lane (Victoria Shields, Tori Lane Shields) (RN 537502)
Bend, OR

Obtained, possessed and self-administered controlled substances illegally. Revocation effective 2-20-00.

HOLDEN, Yolonda M.

Saugus, CA
Convicted of unlawful use of another's access code and of forgery. Application for licensure denied effective 12-17-99.

HOLLAR, Georgia Irene (RN 478184)
Gardnerville, NV

Reinstatement of RN license. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 2-3-00.

HOUSTON, Sharon Kay (Sharon Kay Alexander)

Reno, NV
Convicted of petty theft and of disturbing the peace. Application for licensure approved. Upon successful completion of the licensure examination, license will be issued and placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 12-17-99.

HUGHES, Karen Dianne (RN 380730)
Tacoma, WA

Disciplined by another state for diverting and abusing a controlled substance and a dangerous drug. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 12-17-99.

I

ICO, Lelita O. (Lelita T. Oria, Lelita Oria Ico) (RN 175816)

Conviction related to falsification of a patient assessment with intent to defraud the Department of Social Services. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 5-7-00.

IFEDIBA, Frank Maduka (Maduka Frank Ifediba)

Inglewood, CA
Convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, soliciting of prostitution, and reckless driving. Application for licensure approved. Upon successful completion of the licensure examination, license will be issued and placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 1-5-00.

J

JASPER, Lee Charles (RN 526711)
Redding, CA

Convicted of lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 years and of driving under the influence of alcohol. Revocation effective 11-12-99.

JENNINGS, Thomas Josef
(RN 503689)

Redway, CA
Obtained, possessed, and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Falsified, made grossly incorrect, unintelligible entries in hospital and patient records. Surrender of license effective 11-21-99.

JEWELL, Jennifer P. (RN 405554,
NP 4763, NPF 4763)

Felton, CA
Convicted of offenses related to driving under the influence of alcohol. Obtained controlled substances illegally. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 3-5-00.

JOHNSON, Deborah (RN 317856)

Aliso Viejo, CA
Violated terms of probation. Revocation stayed, placed on an additional three years' probation effective 3-9-00.

JONES, Steven Daniel (RN 469024)

Yucca Valley, CA
Convictions including fraudulent procurement of a controlled substance, assault with a deadly weapon, corporal injury to spouse, and second degree burglary. Revocation effective 6-24-00.

K

KAPLE, Siobhan Elizabeth
(RN 561554)

Cantonville, MD
Convictions related to driving under the influence and driving while intoxicated. Revocation stayed, license placed on three years' probation effective 12-31-99.

KECK, Tracey Lynn (Tracey Lynn Rockwell, Tracey Lynn Robichaud) (RN 428747)

Arroyo Grande, CA

Possessed a controlled substance illegally. Convicted of offenses related to driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs. Reported for work while under the influence of alcohol. Revocation effective 11-19-99.

KHEMLANI, Kailash Kishu

(RN 405140, PHN 41020)

San Leandro, CA

Convicted of three counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14. Revocation effective 10-28-99.

L

LEE, Timothy Yue-Tim

Reno, NV

Disciplined by another state for performing acts beyond the scope of practice of professional or practical nursing, making medication errors, and threatening staff and patients. Application denied effective 2-6-00.

LILLY, Porter Lee (RN 488611)

Ontario, CA

Incompetence; prepared and infused overdose of intravenous sodium chloride solution. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 11-21-99.

LOOI, Ming Fok (Ming M. Fok, Ming M. Fok Looi)

Gold River, CA

Failed to obtain and document patients' health history, and arrange for appropriate follow up and diagnostic tests.

Revocation stayed, placed on two years' probation effective 5-20-00.

LYONS, Julie Lynne (RN 561419)

Hesperia, CA

Convicted of disorderly conduct and of driving under the influence. License placed on three years' probation effective 12-20-99.

M

MADDUX, Teddy Raye (Teddy Raye Womack) (RN 444578)

Sacramento, CA

Self-administered controlled substances illegally while on duty as an RN. Revocation effective 1-5-00.

MAINA, Isha Bundu (Emelia Isha Engdahl, Emelin Engdahl, Emelia Isha Engdahl Bundu Maina) (RN 517175)

Richmond, CA

Convictions related to grand theft. Failed to report convictions on application for licensure. Falsified employment application as a registered nurse. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 12-17-99.

MANZO, Janice Mary (Janice Mary Gaffney) (RN 383659)

Santa Maria, CA

Obtained a controlled substance illegally. Failed to check physician's orders and give appropriate dosage of medication to patients. Revocation stayed, placed on two years' probation effective 6-9-00.

MARTIN, Elaine Marie (RN 480264)

Saratoga Springs, NY

Convicted of theft. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 5-18-00.

MARTINEZ, Lillian Corpus

(RN 241111)

San Diego, CA

Reinstatement of RN license. Placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 11-16-99.

MCCLELLAN, Claudia Jo

(RN 402454)

Santa Barbara, CA

Incapable of safe practice as a registered nurse. Surrender effective 5-7-00.

MILLS, Kay Frances (RN 182396, NMW 282, NP 3731, PHN 16240)

Los Altos Hills, CA

Charges: Failed to adequately monitor, assess, document, order appropriate tests, and recognize a patient as a high-risk patient. Surrender of licenses effective 10-21-99.

MITCHELL, Darryl Stanley

(RN 370543)

Moreno Valley, CA

Convicted of offenses related to driving under the influence of alcohol. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 5-14-00.

MOHS, Sheila Gardner (Sheila Mary Mohs) (RN 403995)

Visalia, CA

Obtained, possessed, and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Surrender effective 6-24-00.

MORGULIS, Natalia (Natalia Pintehouk)

San Francisco, CA

Committed dishonest act in retail transaction. Application for licensure granted. Upon successful completion of the license examination, license will be issued and placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 5-18-00.

MUKAI, Janet Elizabeth (Janet Elizabeth Houtz) (RN 361816, PHN 39173)

Los Angeles, CA

Convicted of an act of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor at least three years younger than the adult. Revocation effective 1-6-00.

N

NEWMAN II, Robert Edwin

(Bo Newman) (RN 288867)

Fortuna, CA

Convicted of lewd and lascivious acts upon and with a child under the age of 14. Revocation effective 5-20-00.

NICHOLS, Steven James

Lakewood, CA

Convicted of drunk in public; driving under the influence; and impersonating a police officer. Application for licensure denied effective 5-3-00.

O

OTTINGER, Bertie B.

Simi Valley, CA

Obtained controlled substance illegally. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 6-26-98.

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Disciplinary Actions and Reinstatements *(continued from previous page)*

P

PADGETT, Robert Orisson
(RN 560571)

Salt Lake City, Utah

Convicted of disorderly conduct, related to substance abuse. Failed to report conviction on application. Application for licensure approved. Revocation stayed, license placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 10-22-99.

PETLOCK, Gerald (RN 219245)
Pacifica, CA

Obtained controlled substances illegally from his employer. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 12-6-99. Writ of mandamus filed 4-12-99. Superior court denied. Board's decision upheld.

POORE, Mark Jay

Capistrano, CA

Convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol. Used alcohol in a manner dangerous to self and others. Application for licensure denied effective 3-27-00.

R

RADDIGAN, Kathleen Jean (Kathleen Jean Forbis, Kathleen Jean Stevens) (RN 567344)

Marysville, CA

Convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol. Application for licensure granted. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 6-08-00.

RAITANO, Mary Angela (RN 359151)
Pasadena, CA

Reinstatement of RN license. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 2-3-00.

RAZO, Susan

Roseville, CA

Disciplined in another state for failure to meet standards for nursing practice. Application for licensure denied effective 3-30-00.

REIMERS, William Neil (RN 281536)
Saugus, CA

Obtained and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Falsified entries in hospital and patient records. Revocation effective 10-10-99.

RIVERA, Linea (Linea K. Trevejo)
(RN 182805)

Alhambra, CA

Failed to follow the five rights of medication administration and to recognize drug toxicity in a patient. Revocation effective 2-6-00.

ROBERTS, John (Kenneth Roberts)
(RN 327360)

Los Angeles, CA

Violated terms of probation. Revocation effective 6-8-00.

ROGERS, Kathleen Joann
(RN 256062)

Seal Beach, CA

Failed to properly chart the signing out and administration of a controlled substance. Revocation stayed, placed on four years' probation effective 10-22-99.

RIVERA, Linea (Linea K. Trevejo)
(RN 182805)

Alhambra, CA

Failed to follow the five rights of medication administration and to recognize drug toxicity in a patient. Revocation effective 2-6-00.

RUSHING, Kim Ann (RN 486021)

Forney, TX

Disciplined by another state for conviction related to permitting sexual abuse of a child. Surrender effective 5-7-00.

S

SAMSON, Michael Kevin (Michael Kevin Deosech) (RN 495435)

Morro Bay, CA

Convicted of offenses related to disturbing the peace, of public intoxication, and of driving under the influence. Surrender of license effective 11-21-99.

SANDHU, Susan Jane (Susan Jane Ballock) (RN 391377)

Hercules, CA

Obtained, possessed, and self-administered controlled substances illegally. Surrender effective 6-9-00.

SANSANO, Janet Tupa (RN 511759)

San Diego, CA

Failure to assess a patient's nasogastric tube placement. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 2-20-00.

SAVANT, Aerial (RN 326685)

Woodland Hills, CA

Convicted of use/under the influence of a controlled substance. Revocation stayed, placed on five years' probation. Decision effective 5-12-00.

SHIPLEY, Ray L. (RN 484122)

Salinas, CA

Convicted of willfully causing a child to suffer and of battery. Revocation effective 1-31-00.

SIRETSKY, Vyacheslav

West Hollywood, CA

Failure to disclose petty theft conviction on his application for licensure. Application for licensure approved. Upon successful completion of the licensure examination, license will be issued and placed on two years' probation. Decision effective 3-11-00.

SMITH, Bruce W. (RN 511571)

Colton, CA

Obtained, possessed, and self-administered controlled substances illegally. Revocation effective 6-9-00.

SMITH, Ellen Irene (Ellen Irene Lambert Smith) (RN 366981)

Concord, CA

Convicted of possession and being under the influence of a controlled substance; receiving stolen property; second degree burglary; forgery; and check-insufficient funds. Revocation effective 10-31-99.

SMITH, Teri Jean (Teri Jean Morrison)
(RN 505423)

Riverside, CA

Obtained, possessed and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Surrender of license effective 12-8-99.

SMITHSON, Cindy Rachelle (Cindy Rachelle Rodriguez, Cindy Montez, Cindy Montes)

Vacaville, CA

Convicted of petty theft, passing non-sufficient fund check, obtaining aid by fraud, and forgery. Application for licensure denied effective 6-8-00.

STEWART, Debbie Dale (Debbie Dale Chairez-Dowd Stewart, Debbie Dale of Martinez, Debbie Dale Dowd, Debbie Dale Chaire) (RN 527673)

Ukiah, CA

Convicted of driving under the influence alcohol. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 1-17-00.

STEWART, James Allen (RN 519438)
Los Angeles, CA

Procured his nursing license by fraud; conviction based on this act. Revocation effective 10-21-99.

STREHL, Shawn Anne (RN 566833)
Windsor, CA

Convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol. Application for licensure granted. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 5-14-00.

SWARTS, Shirley Elaine (Shirley Elaine Humiston) (RN 171591,
PHN 10997)
Fresno, CA

While on duty, tested positive for alcohol. Used alcohol to an extent in a manner dangerous or injurious to herself, patients and the public. Revocation effective 1-5-00.

SWEATT, Joyce D. (RN 378515)
Los Angeles, CA

Charges: Administered a lethal dose of Lidocaine IV push to a patient. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 1-6-00.

W

WARD, Angela Jean (RN 561228)
Long Beach, CA

Failed to report convictions for petty theft on application for licensure. Application for licensure approved. Revocation stayed, placed on two years' probation. Decision effective 12-8-99.

WHITE, Holly Beth (RN 399835)
Laguna Beach, CA
Charges: Violated terms of probation. Surrender effective 5-20-00.

WIRTZ, Charlotte Ann (Charlotte Ann House) (RN 403479)
Spring Valley, CA

Failed to ensure monitoring equipment was properly functioning and failed to assess patient's condition during operative procedure. Unfamiliar with basic life saving skills and unable to use emergency medical equipment available to her. Revocation effective 6-15-00.

WOODS, Veronica Gaye (Veronica G. Woods) (RN 532191)

Carson, CA
Obtained, possessed, and self-administered a controlled substance illegally. Failed to respond to patient monitor alarm. Revocation effective 2-6-00.

Y

YEE, Lillian Tune (Lillian Tune Yee Kwan, Lillian Tune Yee Kimura, Lillian Tune Yeekhan Msoore) (RN 99603, PHN 8978)
Palo Alto, CA

Administered incorrect medication, hung the wrong IV solution, and failed to hook up piggyback IV properly. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation effective 1-6-00.

YERBY, Derrick Joshua Lindroth (RN 564339)
Clayton, CA

Convicted of offenses related to driving under the influence of alcohol and of grand theft. Application for licensure approved. Revocation stayed, placed on three years' probation. Decision effective 2-20-00.

Explanation of Disciplinary Language

Convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of an RN—

Can apply to such crimes as embezzlement, child abuse, spousal abuse, battery, theft from a patient or client, or failure to report abuse. This list is for illustration only and is not all-inclusive of the acts for which the Board may discipline an RN's license.

Effective (date)—Indicates the date the disciplinary action goes into operation.

Gross Negligence—An extreme departure from the standard of practice for RNs. An extreme departure means the **repeated** failure to provide the required nursing care or failure to provide care or exercise precaution in a **single situation** which the nurse

knew, or should have known, could result in patient harm.

Incompetence—Lack of knowledge or skill in discharging professional obligations as an RN.

Probation—Allows the licensee to practice as an RN under certain restrictions for a set period of time.

Revocation Stayed, Suspension, Probation—The license is revoked. However, the revocation is "stayed," or set aside temporarily, pending successful completion of the suspension of practice and probation requirements. Violations of the suspension or probation may result in lifting of the "stay" and imposition of the revocation.

Revoked—The license is canceled, or voided, and the license holder no longer has the right to practice as an RN or to use the title.

Stayed—The action does not immediately take place and may not take place if other conditions (such as probation terms) are met.

Stipulation—The accusation has been filed and the case is negotiated and settled prior to hearing. This is similar to an out-of-court settlement in civil suits.

Surrender—The licensee agrees to turn in her or his license subject to specific conditions of surrender. A surrender is valid only if it is accepted by the Board.

Suspension—The licensee is prohibited from practicing as an RN for a specific or indefinite period of time.

Writ—A licensee files an appeal in Superior Court asking the court to overturn the Board's disciplinary decision.

California's Energy Challenge

California is facing a major energy challenge, and we can all help reduce consumption and improve energy efficiency. While California continues to experience electrical shortages and rolling blackouts, Governor Davis and leaders of the California Legislature are working with utilities, energy generators, and consumer groups to forge a long-term solution to this problem. In the short run, California's consumers and businesses can work to reduce electricity usage and use energy more efficiently.

In all State of California agencies, we've implemented a plan to reduce consumption by a minimum of 8 percent. During critical power shortages, State agencies will conserve 20 percent. The Governor also has asked all Californians to reduce their electricity use by at least 8 percent.

California has the power of nearly 35 million people and the sixth largest economy in the world. By implementing a few simple energy-saving measures, we can avoid shortages, lower energy bills, and have a major impact on the availability of power.

We're asking you to flex your power. Each of us has an important role to play right now.

Reduce usage during peak demand hours (5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.)

Turn off all non-essential lights and equipment. When you're not using it, turn it off. Unplug equipment not in regular use, such as VCRs and phone chargers. Putting computers in "sleep" mode can save up to 40 percent in energy consumption.

Turn thermostats to 68° or lower during the day. At home, turn the temperature down to 55° before going to sleep or when gone for the day. For every one degree you lower your thermostat, you'll save up to 5 percent on your heating bill.

At night, close shades and blinds to reduce heat lost through windows. Seal off unused or storage areas from heating.

Buy Energy Star appliances, products, and lights, which are more energy efficient than older models.

Kids also can save energy through their schools by turning off lights, computers, and other electrical equipment during recess and after school. Tell your kids: "Save a little, save a watt."

Taken together, each of these small steps add up. Whether at work or at home, we can make a dramatic difference in the energy crunch.



Your Prescription for the Latest Information & Resources

The Board of Registered Nursing now has a Web site, www.rn.ca.gov, providing our consumers with the latest information on Upcoming Board Events, Licensing & Renewal Information, Links to Other Healthcare Related Sites, Board Advisories & Publications, and much, much more.

Check out the site and let the webmaster@rn.ca.gov know what you think.

The Board welcomes your comments and suggestions!



BRN Bulletin Board



Have you moved or changed your name?

If you have moved or changed your name, you are required to notify the BRN. Title 16, California Code of Regulations Section 1409.1 mandates that all licensees notify the BRN of any change in name or address within 30 days of the change. You must provide the BRN with both the former and new name and your current address, as appropriate. Written notification can be sent to the attention of the Renewals Unit at the BRN.

How to Order a Copy of the year 2000 Nursing Practice Act

This publication may be purchased by sending a check or money order for \$14.00, payable to "Procurement Publications," to:

**Procurement Division
Publications Section
P.O. Box 1015
North Highlands, CA 95660
Phone (916) 928-4630**

To expedite the processing of your order, please request Publication #7540-957-1108-5. UPS provides delivery and will not deliver to a P.O. Box; please include a street address.

The Web site is www.pd.dgs.ca.gov. Click on "Publications" in the left column of the screen. Then scroll down to the end of that screen and click on "Procurement Division Publication Unit." At the top of this screen, click on either "Price List" (scroll down to "Consumer Affairs" to locate the Nursing Practice Act) or "Order Form." The order form must still be mailed because payment cannot be made by credit card.



2001 Board Meetings

February 1-2	Los Angeles
April 26-27	San Diego
June 28-29	Sacramento
September 6-7	San Francisco
November 29-30	Riverside

The public is invited to attend. Locations will be listed on the meeting notice and agenda for each Board meeting.

Disciplinary matters will be scheduled the first day of each meeting. For verification of meetings, please call (916) 324-2715.



Guide for Using the BRN Phone System

DIAL (916) 322-3350 to reach the BRN.

When you hear the greeting, you can direct your call by pressing one of the following numbers. You do not need to wait for the greeting or menu to finish before pressing a number.

PRESS "1" to reach the automated license verification system.

Use this option if you know the permanent RN license number and wish to know the status, expiration date, issuance date, advanced practice certification, or other key data. In California, you can also reach this verification service by calling 1-800-838-6828.

PRESS "2" to reach the Examination and Licensing Program.

For use by applicants for initial licensure, certification, or examination, and for verification of interim permits and temporary licenses.

PRESS "3" to reach the Renewals Program.

Use this option to ask a renewal question, file an address change, or to reach other RN licensee services.

PRESS "4" to reach the Diversion Program.

Use this option to inquire about the rehabilitation program for RNs who may be impaired by chemical dependency or mental illness.

PRESS "5" to file a complaint about a registered nurse.

This option transfers the caller to the Enforcement Program.

PRESS "6" to obtain recorded information on a variety of topics.

For example, BRN address; how to endorse from California to another state; application process for continuing education providers; referrals regarding vocational nurses, psychiatric technicians, certified nursing assistants, or home health aides.

PRESS "0" for all other inquiries.

The BRN also has an automated 24-hour, toll-free, license verification number: 1-800-838-6828

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the BRN report

Board of Registered Nursing
P.O. Box 944210
Sacramento, CA 94244-2100

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