



December 11, 2015

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Information Received on Quarterly Pass Rates

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

The Southern California Directors of Vocational Nursing Programs (SCDVNP) requests the following policy and procedure changes related to quarterly NCLEX reports:

1. Schools will obtain a confidential release of information from graduates for the school which includes the tester's name. Currently the RN directors receive this information. This would enable the director to help the graduate prepare for another NCLEX examination in the event of failure.
2. Graduates should take the NCLEX within 6 months after they receive authorization to test (ATT). If a graduate does not take the NCLEX within 6 months they should be required to obtain the re-approval of their director before retesting. This may result in higher test rates for the State and for the individual school and can allow schools to retest competence for procedures to protect patient safety. This second approval could also have a fee attached to provide the BVNPT with additional resources for this purpose.

### **Rationale**

The Southern California Directors of Vocational Nursing Programs (SCDVNP) have identified serious problems related to the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) reports we now receive and the time it takes some graduates to actually take the NCLEX.

1. Some test takers are incorrectly attributed to schools from which they did not graduate.
2. Students who graduated several years ago but did not test immediately, test years after graduation and fail. Those failures have a negative impact on a school's pass rates. Those graduates who wait more than 6 months may not retain enough knowledge to be technically competent and may cause a risk to the public. There is currently no time limit to how long after a student graduates she/he may take the NCLEX exam.
3. The current policy of denying schools the identity of NCLEX test takers hampers the school's ability to evaluate outcomes and provide graduates the appropriate remediation and review.

It has come to our attention that a number of schools have found that successful NCLEX candidates are occasionally credited to other schools. For some schools, the loss of even one passing graduate can significantly lower a quarterly pass rate. This can result in serious consequences for schools on Provisional

approval, including school closure. A school on Provisional status should not be closed based on a potential error. The schools need names of NCLEX candidates, not merely numbers of test takers, to be assured of accuracy. This policy change would allow schools to have the ability to effectively evaluate their programs.

The second issue is the lack of a time limit for taking the NCLEX. This fact, that some graduates test more than a year after graduation, can cause a serious patient safety issue. A person who lets years lapse before taking the NCLEX may possibly pass the test, but may be a safety risk due to a lack of experience during that time lapse. PearsonVue allows the person 6 months to test after registering. If a person does not take the test in that time frame we, as directors, want them to come back to the school to demonstrate competency for safe practice and NCLEX preparation. A form could be provided for the director's approval of NCLEX testing. There could be an additional fee for this process to provide the Board with the necessary resources to process this information. Some schools would like to offer remediation.

In summary, we are requesting two policy changes:

1. Schools will obtain a confidential release of information from graduates for the school which includes the tester's name. Currently the RN directors receive this information. This would enable the director to help the graduate prepare for another NCLEX examination in the event of failure.
2. Graduates should take the NCLEX within 6 months after they receive authorization to test (ATT). If a graduate does not take the NCLEX within 6 months they should be required to obtain the re-approval of their director before retesting. This may result in higher test rates for the State and for individual school and can allow schools to retest competence for procedures to protect patient safety. This second approval could also have a fee attached to provide the BVNPT with additional resources for this purpose.

Respectfully Yours,

Southern California Directors of Vocational Nursing Programs