

VA HOSPITALS CAN HELP NURSES MANAGE LICENSURE WITH NCSBN'S NURSYS E-NOTIFY

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The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is seeking to help nurses working in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with the state license renewal process, while also aiding nurse executives in managing their nursing workforce.

For the past two years, NCSBN has encouraged VA facilities to utilize Nursys e-Notify, a service that allows administrators and nurses to receive up-to-date information regarding the status of a license, disciplinary issues, expiration date, and all states in which the nurse is licensed. The free service utilizes the Nursys national database, which can verify a nurse license, discipline and practice privileges for RNs and LPN/LVNs in participating states.

Several VA facilities across the country utilize Nursys e-Notify and it is expected that more facilities will begin using the program over the next year. The system is already utilized in many private sector hospitals, businesses, and institutions nationwide. Implementing Nursys e-Notify

will allow VA facilities to become more aligned with the same license management standards found in the private sector.

While private sector hospitals require a nurse to be licensed in the state of practice, the VA only requires a nurse to hold one valid license, regardless of the state of practice. Because of this, the VA credentialing process can sometimes be complex to manage, especially for nurses who possess multiple licenses or are privileged to work at more than one VA facility. Nursys e-Notify will provide a single location where the complete licensing and disciplinary information of any nurse enrolled in the program at a facility can be found. This will give VA nurse executives the critical information they need to help guide VA nurses through licensing or credentialing issues. For example, Nursys e-Notify will alert nurse executives to any changes to a nurse's license and will provide up to date status regardless of the state of licensure. Alerts are issued when a nurse is due to renew

their license, allowing nurse executives to remind nurses about their upcoming renewal and helping prevent a potential lapse in licensure.

The Nursys database also includes disciplinary information from all participating states. By utilizing Nursys e-Notify, VA facilities will be able to see the disciplinary history from licenses in any participating state that an enrolled VA nurse has ever possessed, not just the license presented to the VA for credentialing. This feature will help improve patient safety for Veterans and continue to ensure the VA continues to be staffed with a safe, competent nursing workforce.

Nurses are able to view a version of their individual licensing report by entering their information into Nursys QuickConfirm. Nurses can also enroll in Nursys e-Notify as an individual nurse to receive updates on their own licenses. More information on all of these tools is available at www.nursys.com. ★