

Arizona State Board of Nursing

Proposed COVID- 19

Graduate Nurse or Practical Nurse
Authorization to Practice with Temporary
Permit

April 15, 2020

During the COVID-19 State of Emergency declared by the Governor of Arizona, and consistent with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-17, due to the closure of testing locations and shortage of testing spots for the required NCLEX licensing examination, a new graduate who provides the Arizona State Board of Nursing (Board) with verification of successful completion of an nursing education program that has current approval in Arizona or in another state or territory within the United States, its Territories or Possessions, and who applies for initial licensure by examination in Arizona, may be temporarily authorized by the Arizona State Board of Nursing (Board) to practice nursing as a graduate registered nurse (GN) or graduate practical nurse (GPN) under a temporary permit ("Permit") pending the results of the NCLEX licensing examination.

1. In order to obtain a Permit to temporarily practice as a GN or GPN, the new graduate must:

(A) file a completed licensure application, including verification of completion of graduation requirements and the non-refundable application processing fee relating to Licensure by Examination for Graduates of Basic Nursing Education Programs

(B) have no outstanding eligibility issues, as defined in the Arizona Nurse Practice Act and related Arizona laws

(C) have never failed the NCLEX for the level of nursing (PN or RN) for which the applicant is currently applying; and

(D) have registered to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN with the examination administration service (Pearson Vue), and provide documentation to the Board that there is no availability to take the examination.

(E) agree that the Board's eligibility decision is final, and release the Board and the State from any causes of action related to the permit application process, or possible revocation of the permit in the future.

2. The Permit to practice as a GN or GPN is valid for up to six months from the date of issue, but automatically expires upon receipt of regular nurse license, the GN or GPN failing the NCLEX examination, or the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency as declared by the Arizona Governor, whichever date is earlier. The Permit is renewable in six month increments during the Arizona COVID-19 State of Emergency and while NCLEX testing is not available to the new graduate. Upon expiration, the GN or GPN shall immediately cease the nursing practice that had been temporarily authorized through the Permit, and shall inform all employers of the expiration of temporary permission to practice.

3. The new graduate who has received a Permit to practice nursing as a GN or GPN pending the results of the licensing examination must work under the direct supervision

and direction of a licensed registered nurse. The supervising nurse must be physically present in the same facility or practice setting as the GN or GPN, and must be readily available for consultation and assistance. If the facility is organized into multiple units that are geographically distanced from each other, then the supervising nurse must be working on the same unit to which the GN or GPN is assigned. The GN or GPN shall not be placed in supervisory or charge positions and shall not work in independent practice settings.

4. The nurse administrator of facilities that employ GNs or GPNs must verify through the Board's website, www.azbn.gov, that the GN or GPN has a valid Permit to practice as a GN or GPN pending the results of the licensing examination, has scheduled a date to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN, and does not continue to practice after expiration of the Permit.

5. At its sole discretion, the Board may deny any permit applications, or summarily revoke any permits it previously granted, upon making a finding that the permit for that individual may endanger the health, safety or welfare of the public. Any such denial or revocation action is final and is not subject to legal review.

6. The Board delegates decisions regarding the permit applications and revocations to the Board's designee.

Approved by Arizona State Board of Nursing Board Members
April 15, 2020



Joey Ridenour RN MN FAAN
Executive Director
Arizona State Board of Nursing