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New Licensing Requirement

On January 1, 2018, all nurses with an active license in Washington State must complete two surveys the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (Nursing Commission) requires for licensing. The Nursing Commission made this decision because in Washington State we want to know the nurse's educational preparation and areas of practice to determine the need for nurses in particular areas of practice and locations.

In October of 2005, the Institute of Medicine recommended that 80 percent of registered nurses be prepared at the baccalaureate level. Historically, the Nursing Commission had not collected information on the academic progression of nurses. To meet the Institute of Medicine's recommendation, we need a reliable collection of data.

Here are the steps to complete required licensing information:

To renew your license, you must complete two surveys:

1. Nursing Commission Workforce survey:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio/s?s=WorkforceData>.
This survey needs to be completed only one time, with your 2018 renewal. When you complete this survey, you will be re-directed to the Nursys® e-Notify survey.
2. Register and complete your information at Nursys® e-Notify:
<https://www.nursys.com/EN/ENDefault.aspx>.
You must enter this survey as a nurse. Do not enter the survey as an institution. Every year when you renew your license, you must review and update your information as needed.

New applicants must complete the two surveys. The Nursing Commission issues the license when all requirements are satisfied. You will then complete the two surveys using your license number.

1. New applicants must complete the Nursing Commission Workforce survey after receiving their license number:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio/s?s=WorkforceData>.
This survey needs to be completed only one time, with your new license. When you finish this survey, you will be re-directed to the Nursys® e-Notify survey
2. New applicants use their new license number to register and complete their survey at Nursys® e-Notify:
<https://www.nursys.com/EN/ENDefault.aspx>.

We are all concerned about the security of information being collected. At the Nursing Commission, we rely on three levels of security to assure the best data protection in today's electronic world.

There are primarily four organizations working collaboratively to ensure the appropriate security controls are in place to protect nurses' demographic data: The Washington Center for Nursing (WCN), University of Washington (UW),

Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN).

The WCN and UW Center for Health Workforce Studies Registered Nurse Workforce Survey has been reviewed by Washington's human subjects review board, like any other research study. The identities of individual nurses will be kept confidential, no personal identifiers will be disclosed, and all information will be reported in aggregate form, consistent with all state and federal regulations.

The Department of Health (DOH), working with Washington State Office of Cyber Security, works every day to detect, block and respond to cyber-attacks on state networks. This work includes preventing and mitigating threats before they can cause significant damage. Cyber threats will continue to evolve, and so will our defenses against them. DOH and security partners protect the information entrusted to them and are also prepared to respond in the event something unexpected occurs.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), Information Security Management Program is aligned with the Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations. NCSBN uses the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST) 800-53, moderate-impact security controls framework for its information security to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information that NCSBN's information systems process, store and transmit. Please see the NIST website for additional information on the NIST 800-53 framework.

NCSBN has incorporated security policies, procedures and contractual security requirements that promote the protection of intellectual properties, employee and customer personal information, proper data security and data handling procedures, and data transmissions. NCSBN also performs assessments, audits, penetration tests, and vulnerability scans to help ensure NIST 800-53, moderate-impact security control compliance.

The Nursing Commission already maintains personal and confidential information on nurses. The Nursing Commission will handle additional workforce information in the same manner as allowed under state and federal laws. Nursing workforce reports generated by use of this data will be reported in aggregate form. No personal identifiers will be disclosed.

I hope this information helps you understand why the Nursing Commission passed this rule; how your personal information is protected; and, how to satisfy the new licensing requirement.