

State-by-state Guide for RN License Renewal Requirements 2009

Information in this guide was obtained through each state's Board of Nursing website. Please check each individual site for any changes or updates. Current RN licensure is mandatory for renewal of advanced practice nursing privileges in the majority of states. In many states, RN licensure can be renewed at the same time as advanced practice nursing privileges.

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Alabama

Board of Nursing

Website <http://www.abn.state.al.us>
Telephone 334-242-4060
E-mail abn@abn.state.al.us

RNs and LPNs must earn 24 contact hours within their two-year licensing period. Nurses licensed by examination on or after October 1, 2002 must complete 4 contact hours of Board-provided continuing education related to Board functions, the Nurse Practice Act, regulations, professional conduct, and accountability. This mandatory class must be completed for the first license renewal for RNs and LPNs licensed by examination.

APNs (CRNP, CNM, CRNA, CNS) are required to have current national certification in the specialty area of practice. The national certifying organization must send official verification of this directly to the Board of Nursing prior to certification expiration date. Allow for approximately two weeks for the Board to provide you with notice for approval of continued Advanced Practice Nursing.

Alaska

Board of Nursing

Website <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pnur.htm>
Telephone 907-465-2550
E-mail license@alaska.gov

Two of the following must be met every two years:

- 30 hours of approved continuing education
- 30 hours of professional activities
- 320 hours of employment as a RN or LPN

Licensees may qualify for alternative methods of competency through a refresher course, taking the NCLEX, or by progressing towards a degree or certificate by completing two courses.

ANPs renew licensure every two years. A copy of the licensee's national certification in the area of specialty practice is required to accompany the renewal form. Renewal of prescriptive authority includes at least eight contact hours of pharmacology relating to specialty area of practice.

Arizona

State Board of Nursing

Website <http://www.azbn.gov/>
Telephone 602-889-5150
E-mail Arizona@azbn.gov

LPN and RN license renewal requires a minimum of 960 hours of nursing practice within a five-year period either as an employee or volunteer. Proof of citizenship, alien status, legal residency, or lawful presence in the United States is now required to renew all nursing licenses.

APNs (NP, CNM, CNS) and CRNAs are required to send official certification/recertification from their national certifying body upon license renewal for renewal of prescriptive privileges. This information must be provided by the credentialing agency directly to the Board of Nursing.

Arkansas

State Board of Nursing

Website <http://www.arsbn.org/>
Telephone 501-686-2700
Fax 501-686-2714

LPNs and RNs renew licensure every two years and must meet *one* of the following requirements:

- 15 contact hours that are practice-focused
- Certification or recertification by a national certifying body
- Academic course in nursing or a related field
- Provide other evidence as requested by the Board

APNs (ANP, CNS, CNM, CRNA) must submit to the Board proof of current national certification and hold a current state RN license.

California

Board of Registered Nursing

Website	http://www.rn.ca.gov
Telephone	916-322-3350
E-mail	brn_licensing@dca.ca.gov

RN and LPN license renewal requires 30 hours of continuing education through Board-approved providers during the two-year renewal period. Advanced Practice Certificates (CNS, CRNA, CNM, CNM-furnishing, NP-furnishing) do not have any additional required continuing education for renewal.

Colorado

Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing
Telephone	303-894-2430
E-mail	registrations@dora.state.co.us

It is recommended to find answers to questions online first. Only if no answers are found to your specific question online, then e-mail the Division of Registrations.

There are no mandatory continuing education requirements for LPN, RN, or APN license renewal. The renewal period is every two years.

Connecticut

Board of Examiners for Nursing

Website	http://www.ct.gov/dph/
Telephone	860-509-7603
E-mail	oplc.dph@ct.gov

LPNs and RNs have no continuing education requirements for license renewal. Licensure renewal is required on an annual basis.

APRNs are required to maintain current national certification in their specialty area. An initial 30 hours of pharmacology continuing education is required for licensure. A master's degree in nursing or a related field is required if licensed after December 31, 1994.

Delaware

Board of Nursing

Website	http://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/nursing/
Telephone	302-744-4500
E-mail	customerservice.dpr@state.de.us

LPNs are required to have 24 contact hours and RNs are required to have 30 contact hours for license renewal every two years. In addition, 1,000 hours of nursing practice over the past five years or 400 hours within the past two years is required.

APNs with prescriptive authority must earn an additional 10 contact hours in pharmacology/pharmatherapeutics each renewal period. In addition, APNs are required to have *one* of the following:

- 1,500 hours of practice over the past five years in their area of specialty practice
- 600 hours over the past two years in their area of specialty practice
- Graduation from the specialty program within the past two years

District of Columbia

Board of Nursing

Website	http://hpla.doh.dc.gov/hpla/cwp/view,A,1195,Q,488526,hplNav,%7C30661%7C,.asp
Telephone	877-672-2174
E-mail	hpla.doh@dc.gov

LPNs are required to have 18 contact hours and RNs are required to have 24 contact hours of continuing education during the two-year renewal period. Additional ways to earn continuing education credits include:

- 1) Develop and teach a nursing course
- 2) Author or editor nursing article or book
- 3) Completed credits towards an undergraduate or graduate degree in nursing

APRNs (NP, CNS, CNM) are required to have 24 contact hours for license renewal for each specialty license. Within the 24 contact hour requirement, 15 of those contact hours must include a pharmacology component and 9 contact hours must be relevant to your area of APRN specialty.

Florida

Board of Nursing: Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA)

Website	http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/nursing/
Telephone	850-245-4125
E-mail	MQA_Nursing@doh.state.fl.us

All RNs and LPNs are on a 24-month renewal cycle. A total of 24 hours of continuing education is required for each renewal cycle, including:

- Prevention of Medical Errors, 2 contact hours required for each renewal cycle
- HIV/AIDS, a one-time, one-hour CE requirement to be completed prior to the first renewal
- Domestic Violence CE, a two-hour requirement due every third renewal

ARNPs must have current national certification in their specialty area of practice, collaborative practice protocol on file with the Board, and malpractice insurance (or need to complete a malpractice exemption form). No additional continuing education hours are required. ARNPs with dispensing licenses will have annual reviews of their dispensing records.

Georgia

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.sos.georgia.gov/plb/rn/
Telephone	478-207-2440
Fax	478-207-1660

There are no continuing education requirements for LPN and RN license renewal. The license renewal period is every two years.

APRNs (NP, CNS, CNM, CRNA) renew licenses on a two-year cycle. Requirements for license renewal include a completed ANP renewal application and a copy of current national certification.

Hawaii

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/pvl/boards/nursing
Telephone	808-586-3000
E-mail	nursing@dcca.hawaii.gov

Renewal period is every two years for LPNs and RNs. No continuing education requirements are needed for

renewal. APRNs with master's degrees only need renewal application. APRNs without master's degrees need proof of current national certification and renewal application. License renewal is every two years.

Idaho

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www2.idaho.gov/ibn/
Telephone	208-334-3110
E-mail	diana.anderson@ibn.idaho.gov

LPN, RN, and APN licenses are renewed every two years. No continuing education is required for LPN or RN renewals.

APPN (NP, CNS, CNM, RNA) renewals require:

- Current national certification
- 30 contact hours of Board approved continuing education
- 10 contact hours of pharmacology-related continuing education
- Minimum of 200 hours of advanced nursing practice within the two-year renewal period
- Peer review process that meets Board-established criteria (only CNM, CNS, and NP)

Illinois

Department of Professional Regulation

Website	http://www.idfpr.com/dpr/
Telephone	217-785-0800
E-mail	Illinois Center for Nursing: FPR.ILCenterforNurses@illinois.gov

LPN and RN license renewal require no mandatory continuing education. The license renewal period is every two years. APNs are required to have 50 hours of continuing education for every two-year renewal cycle.

Indiana

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.in.gov/pla/nursing.htm
Telephone	317-234-2043
E-mail	pla2@pla.IN.gov

LPNs or RNs have no continuing education requirements for routine license renewal. Renewal period for LPN, RN, and APN (NP, CNS, CNM) licensure is every two years. APNs with prescriptive authority are required to have a

minimum of 30 hours of continuing education, with at least eight hours in pharmacology.

Iowa

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.state.ia.us/government/nursing/
Telephone	515-281-3255
E-mail	ibon@iowa.gov

LPN, RN, and ARNP licenses renew every three years. LPNs and RNs need 36 contact hours of continuing education to renew licensure. However if the licensee was provided a license in less than the three-year period, 24 contact hours of continuing education are then required for this first renewal period.

ARNPs are required to meet the CE requirements of the credentialing body that provides certification in the ARNP's focus of practice. National certification is required to be maintained. In addition, a minimum of two hours of continuing education training is required on reporting of child/dependent or adult abuse every five years if the LPN, RN, or ARNP scope of practice includes care for dependent adults or children in Iowa. This course must be approved by the Iowa Department of Public Health Abuse Education Review Panel.

Kansas

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.ksbn.org/
Telephone	785-296-4929
E-mail	info@ksbn.state.ks.us

All nursing license categories (LPN, RN, ARNP) need to be renewed every two years. 30 hours of Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) must be submitted to the board for license renewal for all nursing categories including the RN/ARNP. At the time of license renewal, copies of CNE certificates must be mailed to the Kansas State Board of Nursing (Attention: Licensing Section).

Kentucky

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.kbn.ky.gov/
Telephone	502-429-3300

RNs and LPNs need 14 contact hours of continuing nursing education for the 2009 renewal period which is from November 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009. Other

options for meeting this CE requirement are available on the Kentucky Board of Nursing website.

In addition, two contact hours of HIV/AIDS education is mandatory for nurses to complete once every 10 years. Also, a one-time requirement of three contact hours of Domestic Violence CE is mandatory for all nursing examination candidates educated outside of Kentucky and nurses seeking reinstatement or licensure by endorsement from another state. IV Therapy CE is required for LPNs who perform IV therapy in their scope of practice (see website for more information).

ARNPs (NP, CNM, CNS, CRNA) are required to earn five contact hours in pharmacology CE each licensure period. These pharmacology CEs count in the total contact hours needed for license renewal. Current national certification maintenance is required for ARNP licensure.

Louisiana

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.lsbns.state.la.us/
Telephone	225-755-7500
Fax	225-755-7584

LPN and RN licenses are renewed annually. CE requirements for renewal include:

- 5 contact hours for full-time employment
- 10 contact hours for part-time employment
- 15 contact hours for inactive/unemployed
- 15 contact hours/year for reinstatement
- No contact hours are required the year of licensure for endorsement/initial licensure

APRNs must have current national certification in the area of specialty practice in order to renew licensure. APRN licenses are renewed annually. For prescriptive authority, an initial pharmacology course of 45 contact hours is required. Grandfathered APRNs without national certification need to meet the following requirements for license renewal:

- Minimum of 300 hours of advanced nursing practice within 12-month period
- Minimum of two college credits per year, or a minimum of 30 nursing contact hours each year (a maximum of 10 contact hours can be CME)

Maine

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/
Telephone	207-287-1133
Fax	207-287-1149

LPNs and RNs are not mandated to have continuing education for the two-year license renewal period. APRNs are required to have 75 contact hours per two-year renewal period. 30 of the 75 hours must be in Category I, and no more than 45 hours can be in Category II (see Board website for details).

Maryland

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.mbon.org/main.php
Telephone	410-585-1900 or 888-202-9861
E-mail	Online Renewal Status Inquiries: support@mdbon.org
	Mail-in Renewal Status Inquiries: mdbonsupport@dhhm.state.md.us

All licensed nurses must show evidence of 1,000 active practice hours within the five-year period for renewal, or must successfully complete a Board-approved renewal course. 10 CEUs are required per renewal year, and are submitted each year (1 clock hour = 1 CEU). APNs need to provide proof of current national certification upon renewal.

Massachusetts

Board of Registration in Nursing

Website	http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/rn/
Telephone	617-973-0800
E-mail	michael.e.bearse@state.ma.us

LPNs and RNs are required to have 15 contact hours within the two-year renewal period. "Initial ACLS" certification can be used towards the 15 contact hours, but not "ACLS renewal." CPR certification cannot be used towards the 15 contact hours. APNs with prescription privileges must meet renewal requirements by submitting documentation of current national APN certification.

Michigan

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-27417_27529_27542---00.html
Telephone	517-355-0918
E-mail	bhpinfo@michigan.gov

Michigan requires LPNs and RNs to have 25 contact hours within two years to renew their licenses. One contact hour is required for pain and symptom management.

Nurse Specialty Certifications, including NP, CRNA, and CNM practice, need to have a current RN Michigan license and current national certification in the area of their specialty practice. If a Nurse Practitioner is certified after 1991, proof of recertification or maintained certification is required. If first licensed by Michigan Board of Nursing before 1991, NPs need to have completed 40 hours of CEUs in the nursing specialty field within the two years prior to license renewal. Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) must show proof of *one* of the following:

- Meeting Continuing Competency Assessment requirements of AMCB if initially certified prior to January 1, 1996
- Continuing certification or certification from AMCB Certification Council if initially certified after January 1, 1996
- Completion of 20 hours of continuing education in midwifery

Minnesota

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard
Telephone	612-617-2270
E-mail	Nursing.Board@State.MN.US

Continuing education is required for LPNs and RNs to renew licensure. LPNs need 12 contact hours for each two-year renewal period. RNs need 24 contact hours for each two-year renewal period.

APNs who have national certification in specialty areas must provide proof of current certification. Licenses are renewed every two years. Please check website for a list of Board-approved professional activities.

Mississippi

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.msbn.state.ms.us/
Telephone	601-987-4188; 601-944-4826
Fax	601-364-2352

RN or LPN license renewal requires no continuing education if proof of practicing within the five years prior to renewal. Otherwise nurses will need to have attended a Board-approved nursing refresher course, or 20 contact hours within the two-year period prior to license renewal, or successful completion of three semester hours of nursing credit offered by a nursing education program. LPNs currently certified in IV therapy and/or hemodialysis are required to complete a minimum of 10 continuing education hours in the expanded role of IV therapy and/or hemodialysis.

APRNs renewing licensure need to submit review of practice guidelines/protocol, documentation of 40 contact hours (4 CEUs) related to the specialty (2 contact hours within the 40 contact hours must be a Board-approved program specific to prescribing controlled substances, and no more than 20 contact hours may be obtained from medical or advanced nursing journals), and documentation of current national certification in specialty area.

Missouri

Board of Nursing

Website	http://pr.mo.gov/nursing.asp
Telephone	573-751-0681
E-mail	nursing@pr.mo.gov

LPN and RN renewal period is every two years. There are no requirements for continuing education for license renewal. For APNs, if your RN license is current, and your APRN Document of Recognition does not lapse, then no new APRN application nor fee will be required. A collaborative practice agreement is required for APNs.

Montana

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://mt.gov/dli/bsd/license/bsd_boards/nur_board/board_page.asp
Telephone	406-841-2340
Fax	406-841-2305

RNs and LPNs renew licensure every two years. Continuing education is not required for renewal. For APRNs (NP, CNM, CRNA), 40 CEUs are required every two years, and an additional 10 CEU every two years for prescriptive authority. In addition, an active RN license and current national certification in specialty area is required.

Nebraska

Health and Human Services System, Department of Regulation and Licensure

Website	http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/nursing/rn-lpn/rn-lpn.htm
Telephone	402-471-4376
E-mail	sheila.exstrom@nebraska.gov <i>Sheila Exstrom, RN, PhD, Nursing Education Consultant</i>

License renewal period is every two years. RNs and LPNs need to meet requirements of *one* of the following:

- Practiced nursing for at least 500 hours over the past five years AND have 20 contact hours (at least 10 hours must be peer reviewed) within the last renewal period (CPR and BLS are limited to 4 of the required 20 contact hours)
- Graduated from a nursing program within the past two years
- Graduated between two and five years ago, and completed at least 20 contact hours of Board-approved CE
- Board-approved refresher course within the past five years
- Current or new certification in nursing specialty
- Portfolio demonstrating current continuing competency goals and evidence of professional activity to meet those goals

APRN (NP) renewal period is every two years.

Requirements include:

- 2,080 practice hours within the past five years prior to renewal
- Proof of current national certification or recertification in the specific nursing specialty area of practice
- At least 500 of the 2,080 hours of practice must be in a clinical role of direct nurse/patient contact
- If applicant has not been licensed in Nebraska or any other jurisdiction for a minimum of two years, the required CE or practice hour requirements for license renewal do not have to be met
- If applicant has not been licensed in Nebraska or any other jurisdiction for a minimum of five years, practice hour requirements for license renewal do not have to be met

Nevada

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.nursingboard.state.nv.us
Telephone	888-590-6726
Fax	702-486-5803
E-mail	nursingboard@nsbn.state.nv.us

RN and LPN license renewals are every two years, and require the following:

- 30 contact hours of nursing-related continuing education in the previous 24 months
- A one-time state mandated course on bioterrorism
- Proof of nursing practice within the past five years

APNs are required to have an additional 15 hours of CEs directly related to their area of specialty practice. CRNAs need an additional 15 hours of CE in pharmacology.

New Hampshire

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.nh.gov/nursing/
Telephone	603-271-2323
Fax	603-271-6605
E-mail	boardquestions@nursing.state.nh.us

RN and LPN license renewal requires 30 contact hours within the two years prior to renewal, and *one* of the following:

- 400 hours of practice within four years immediately prior to renewal of license
- Completion of a Board-approved refresher course within the two-year renewal period
- Completion of the NCLEX exam within the two-year renewal period

ARNP license renewal includes 30 contact hours for RN license renewal, plus an additional 30 contact hours specific to area of advanced practice specialty (5 of the 30 contact hours must be related to pharmacology). Current certification in specialty will meet the 30 contact hours required for RN licensure renewal. In addition, 400 practice hours within the four years preceding renewal is also required.

New Jersey

Division of Consumer Affairs

Website	http://www.nj.gov/lps/ca/medical/nursing.htm
Telephone	973-504-6430
E-mail	NJNursingCEQuestions@dca.lps.state.nj.us
	Board of Nursing: apn@dca.lps.state.nj.us

RNs and LPNs are required to have 30 contact hours for license renewal within the two-year renewal period. See website for more information on contact hour requirements. If more than 30 contact hours are obtained by the licensee within that time frame, no more than 15 of the extra contact hours may be utilized for the next renewal period.

APNs are required to have 30 contact hours in their nursing specialty practice required for recertification of their national nursing specialty certification. A total of six Board-approved contact hours in pharmacology continuing education related to controlled dangerous substances, including pharmacologic therapy and addiction prevention and management, is required by June 19, 2009.

New Mexico

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.bon.state.nm.us
Telephone	505-841-8340
Fax	505-841-8347

RNs and LPNs must have a minimum of 30 contact hours of Continuing Education as a requirement of recertification every two years.

APNs (CNP, CNS, CRNA) must complete a minimum of 50 contact hours within the preceding two years prior to license renewal. APNs licensed after December 2, 1985 must also maintain current national certification in the nursing specialty area of advance practice for license renewal.

New York

State Education Department, Office of the Professions

Website	http://www.op.nysed.gov/nursing.htm
Telephone	518-474-3817 x410 <i>Registration information on license renewal</i>
E-mail	op4info@mail.nysed.gov

All RNS and LPNs are required to have infection control and barrier precautions continuing education training prior to each license renewal. A triennial registration period is given for all nursing licenses in the state of New York. License renewal periods are every three years. Upon initial licensure, a one-time two-hour course is required on the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment.

NPs are required to maintain national certification in their area of specialty practice. Completion of pharmacotherapeutic educational requirements is required for initial NP licensure.

North Carolina

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.ncbon.com
Telephone	919-782-3211
E-mail	Nursing education questions: Education@ncbon.com
	Nursing practice questions: Practice@ncbon.com
	License renewal mandate: lburhans@ncbon.com

RN and LPN licenses are renewed every two years. Effective July 1, 2008, licensees seeking renewal must attest to having completed the chosen learning activity to meet the continuing competence requirement. RNs and LPNs need to complete a self-assessment of their nursing practice, develop a learning plan, and select an approved learning activity option which must be completed prior to the next renewal date.

This self-assessment must address four nursing practice components:

- 1) Professional responsibility
- 2) Knowledge-based practice
- 3) Legal/ethical practice
- 4) Collaboration

Learning activity options include *one* of the following:

- National certification or recertification
- 30 contact hours of continuing education
- Completion of a Board-approved refresher course
- Two semester hours of post-license academic nursing education
- 15 contact hours plus completion of a nursing project as principal or coprincipal investigator
- 15 contact hours and authoring or co-authoring a published nursing-related article, book, or book chapter

- 15 contact hours and developing and conducting a nursing education presentation
- 15 contact hours and 640 hours of nursing practice within the previous two years

APRN (NP, CNM, CRNA, CNS) licensure must be renewed annually. 50 contact hours are required for renewal of APRN license each year beginning with the first renewal after approval to practice. NP compliance reviews are conducted randomly to make sure that the NPs are meeting the requirements of the Board rules and regulations during their practice. Current certification or recertification of a national credentialing body must be maintained for APRN license renewal. NPs will be chosen at random for these reviews and given at least 24 hours notice by the Board prior to being visited by a Board member for review.

North Dakota

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.ndbon.org
Telephone	701-328-9777
Fax	701-328-9785

Continued competence requirements must be met by RNs and LPNs for license renewal, including 12 contact hours of continuing education in the preceding two years. Excess contact hours may not be used for the next renewal period. BLS and CPR classes are not allowed to be included in these mandated contact hours. RNs and LPNs need a minimum of 400 practice hours within the four-year period preceding license renewal.

Requirements for renewal of APN licenses include current certification or participation in a competence maintenance program, and the submission of a scope of practice statement for review and approval by the Board.

Ohio

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.nursing.ohio.gov
Telephone	614-466-3947
E-mail	License renewal information: renewal@nursing.ohio.gov
	Continuing education requirement information: ce@nursing.ohio.gov

RNs and LPNs must have 24 contact hours of nursing continuing education within the renewal period. BLS and CPR cannot be used towards the 24 contact hour

requirement. One hour of Category A continuing education is required. APNs must have current national certification in the area of specialty practice and a graduate degree with a major in nursing or related field.

Oklahoma

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.ok.gov/nursing
Telephone	405-962-1800
E-mail	info@www.ok.gov

RNs and LPNs renewing their licenses need to be able to verify citizenship status. No continuing education is required for license renewal. Renewal period is every two years.

APNs need to have the required amount of prescriptive authority and advanced pharmacology continuing education in the area of specialty practice. ARNP, CNS, and CNM license renewals require 15 contact hours of pharmacology related information earned within the two-year renewal period. ARNP, CNS, and CNM license renewals with prescriptive privileges must submit a new Agreement for Physicians Supervising Prescriptive Authority for each supervising physician. CRNAs need a minimum of eight contact hours of continuing education in advanced pharmacology relating to the administration of anesthesia.

Oregon

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.osbn.state.or.us
Telephone	971-673-0685
E-mail	oregon.bn.info@state.or.us

All nursing licenses are renewed every two years. RN and LPN license renewal requirements include 960 practice hours over the past five years and a mandatory seven contact hours of continuing education on pain management.

APN license renewal requirements include the above RN renewal requirements plus:

- NPs need 100 contact hours every two years. 15 contact hours of the 100 contact hours required must be in pharmacotherapeutic content for APNs with prescriptive authority.
- CNS with prescriptive authority needs 100 contact hours every two years. A 45-hour pharmacology course within the past 2 years is required to renew

prescriptive privileges or 400 hours of utilizing prescriptive authority within the past two years.

- CNS without prescriptive authority needs 40 contact hours every two years. At least 50% of the total contact hours required need to be a “structured activity” (a lecture, learning experience, or activity which is accredited and awards a certificate for attendance). Accepted continuing education will be related to the scope of specialty practice of the APN. CPR and ACLS do not meet the requirements for continuing education. Required CE must be related to the specialty focus and given at the target audience level.

CRNA renewal requirements include: 850 practice hours within the past two years; continuing education to meet the requirements of the national certifying body; and a mandatory seven contact hours of continuing education on pain management.

Pennsylvania

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.dos.state.pa.us/nurse
Telephone	717-783-7142
E-mail	st-nurse@state.pa.us

For PN (practical nurse) renewal, there are currently no CE or practice hour requirements.

For RN license renewal, the PA State Board of Nursing has recently added a new requirement for CE; a new mandate of 30 hours of continuing education is required to renew RN licensure beginning October 31, 2010. ACLS, PALS, and ATLS (Advanced Trauma Life Support) may be used towards the 30 hours of CE only once during the two-year renewal period. Additional contact hours do not carry-over to the next renewal period.

At the present time, CRNPs must verify 30 hours of CE during the two-year renewal period. If the CRNP has prescriptive privileges then 16 of the 30 CEs must be in pharmacology.

Rhode Island

Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education

Website	http://www.health.state.ri.us/hsr/professions/nurses.php
Telephone	401-222-5700
E-mail	Pamela.McCue@health.ri.gov

RNs and LPNs need a minimum of 10 continuing education hours per renewal cycle, every two years. In addition, CRNPs need 30 hours of continuing education in pharmacology every six years in order to renew prescription privileges.

South Carolina

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing
Telephone	803-896-4550
E-mail	nurseboard@llr.sc.gov

RNs and LPNs renew their licenses every two years, and must meet *one* of the following requirements for continued competency:

- Completion of 30 contact hours of education
- Maintenance of certification or recertification by a national certifying body
- Completion of an academic program of study in nursing or a related field
- Verification of competency and number of hours practiced as evidenced by employer certification

Contact hours must be completed within the two-year renewal period. Additional contact hours obtained during this time do not carry over to the next renewal period.

APRN licenses are renewed every two years. Current national certification in the specialty area of the APRN is required.

South Dakota

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing
Telephone	License renewal: 605-362-2760 Advanced practice licensure: 605-362-2772
Fax	605-362-2768

RNs and LPNs do not have any continuing education requirements for license renewal, but must provide verification of a minimum of 140 hours with a 12-month period (during the previous six years) or a total accumulation of 480 hours within a six-month period of employment/volunteer work in nursing prior to renewal. If this requirement is not met, the RN or LPN will need to take a Board-approved refresher course.

APNs are required to have current national certification in their area of specialty for license renewal. CNPs and CNMs are required to maintain current status on their collaborative agreements with a physician licensed in South Dakota.

Tennessee

Board of Nursing

Website	http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/Nursing/
Telephone	615-532-3202 or 800-778-4123
E-mail	tn.health@tn.gov

RN and LPN license renewal is every two years. Submission of evidence to the Board of Nursing Competence will be requested if inactive in the profession of nursing within the past five years.

APN license renewal occurs every two years, the same time as RN license renewal. The APN license and RN license should be renewed at the same time. The APN should have current national nursing certification in area of specialty practice.

Texas

Board of Nurse Examiners

Website	http://www.bne.state.tx.us
Telephone	512-305-7400
E-mail	webmaster@bon.state.tx.us

RNs and LPNs are required to have 20 contact hours within the two-year license renewal period. Please check the Board's website for specific one-time continuing education requirements. APNs must have current national certification in their area of specialty.

Utah

Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

Website	http://www.dopl.utah.gov/licensing/nursing.html
Telephone	801-530-6628
E-mail	doplweb@utah.gov

RN, LPN, and APRN licensure is on a two-year renewal cycle. *One* of the following must be met and completed within the two years prior to application for license renewal:

- Licensed practice for no less than 400 hours
- Licensed practice for no less than 200 hours, and completion of 15 contact hours of continuing education
- Completion of 30 hours of continuing education

APRNs licensure renewal requirements include:

- Current national certification in their specialty area

- If licensed prior to July 1, 1992, 30 hours of continuing education and 400 hours of practice must be completed

Vermont

State Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.vtprofessionals.org/opr1/nurses
Telephone	802-828-2396
E-mail	amorrison@sec.state.vt.us

APRN information: nmorin@sec.state.vt.us

RN and LPN license renewal requirements include *one* of the following:

- Nursing practice of at least 50 days (400 hours) within the last two years
- 120 days (960 hours) of nursing practice within the last five years
- Successful completion of the RN re-entry program

APRN licensure renewal requirements include:

- Current national certification by Board-approved national certifying organization
- Original copy of current practice guidelines, which should include:
 - a) Description of clinical practice
 - b) Standards of clinical practice
 - c) Collaborating physician information
 - d) Methods of quality assurance
 These guidelines should be signed and dated by the APRN and the collaborating physician.

Virginia

Board of Nursing

Website	http://www.dhp.state.va.us/nursing/default.htm
Telephone	804-367-4515
E-mail	nursebd@dhp.virginia.gov

RN and LPN licensure is every two years. There are no continuing education requirements for renewal. CNS license renewal requirements include evidence of national certification in specialty of CNS practice. NP license renewal requirements include:

- If licensed prior to May 8, 2002: current professional certification or completion of at least 40 hours of continuing education in specialty area of practice
- If licensed after May 8, 2002: current certification
- Prescriptive authority renewal includes eight hours of continuing education in pharmacology or pharmacotherapeutics within the two-year renewal period

Washington

State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission

Website	http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Professions/hpqalinks.htm
Telephone	360-236-4700
E-mail	hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov

RNs and LPNs are not mandated to have any continuing education for license renewal. ARNPs are required to complete 30 hours of continuing education in their area of specialty practice every two years. For ARNPs with prescriptive authority, an additional 15 hours of pharmacotherapeutics continuing education related to the ARNPs scope of practice is required.

West Virginia

Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses

Website	http://www.wvrnboard.com
Telephone	304-558-3596
E-mail	rnboard@statewv.us

License renewal occurs annually for RNs and LPNs. Requirements include 12 contact hours of continuing education every year or six contact hours (can include two hours of self-study) plus *one* of the following:

- National certification
- Completion of a nursing research project as principal or coprincipal investigator
- Published a nursing-related article in a national nursing or healthcare journal
- Developed and presented a professional nursing education presentation
- 120 hours of one-on-one clinical precepting of a student or new employee
- Satisfactory evaluation of employment that covers at least 6 months of the reporting period
- Completion of an approved nursing refresher course

ANP practice prescription renewal includes the following written requirements:

- Prescriptive authority guidelines mutually agreed upon with supervising physician
- Statement of individual and shared responsibilities of the ANP and supervising physician
- Frequency of periodic joint evaluation of prescriptive practice and number of charts reviewed
- Frequency of joint review and updating of written guidelines or protocols

Wisconsin

Department of Regulation and Licensing

Website <http://drl.wi.gov/index.htm>
Telephone 608-266-2112 or 877-617-1565
E-mail web@drl.state.wi.us

There are no requirements for continuing education for RN or LPN license renewal. The license renewal period is every two years.

APNP license renewal requires current national certification and master's degree in Nursing or related health field if licensed after July 1, 1998. At least 45 hours of clinical pharmacology/therapeutics is required to initially become certified to prescribe, and eight contact hours per year are needed for renewal. License renewal is every two years.

Wyoming

State Board of Nursing

Website <http://nursing.state.wy.us>
Telephone 307-777-7601
E-mail wynursing@state.wy.us

RN and LPN license renewal period is every two years. Requirements include *one* of the following: 20 contact hours in the last two years; 500 practice hours within the past two years; 1,600 practice hours within the past five years; or a refresher or re-entry program in the past five years. APRNs need to have a master's degree in their nursing specialty and current national certification in the specialty area of practice.