

Document of Recognition Expiration Date

Facts

In order for an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to practice in Missouri, they must obtain a Document of Recognition from the Board of Nursing. These recognitions are contingent upon the APRN having a current RN license in Missouri or (when the compact is implemented on June 1, 2010) a multi-state license from another compact state **AND** a current certification with a certifying body approved by the Board of Nursing.

The expiration date of certifications from nationally recognized certifying bodies vary widely. RN licenses in Missouri expire April 30th of every odd year. RN licenses in other compact states will expire on their respective schedules.

Problem

Individuals will check our web site and see the expiration date of the APRN Document of Recognition (date national certification expires) and make the assumption that the nurse can work until that day. That is not true, if the APRN's RN license or RN multi-state license (as of June 1, 2010) expires, then the APRN Document of Recognition expires regardless of the certification expiration date.

This has caused some APRNs or their employers to have to repay Medicare/Medicaid hundreds of thousands of dollars due to the fact that the APRN was practicing without current Recognition from the Board of Nursing and the billed services were considered fraudulent. In addition, the Board may discipline the RN license of the APRN.

Solution

The online licensee search will not show an expiration date for APRNs. The only APRNs who will be shown on our web site will be those with a current certification. The next step is to check whether the APRN's RN license is active. RNs who have declared Missouri as their primary state of residence will appear on our website and on the Nursys website, www.nursys.com. Effective June 1, 2010, if the APRN is working in Missouri based upon a multi-state RN privilege to practice from another compact state, the RN license will not appear on the Missouri Board of Nursing website and you will have to obtain this information from the Nursys website in order to verify the RN license.

Employers, etc. should build their systems to make sure that these dates are checked before hire and, at a minimum, coinciding with the expiration date of the RN license.