

**PROPOSED CHANGE IN APPROVAL STATUS  
BASED ON THE 2008 NCLEX-PN® EXAMINATION PASS RATES, REVIEW OF  
2008 NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY (NEPIS)  
AND 2008 COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (CANEP),  
AND REPORT OF SURVEY VISIT**

**AMERICAN MEDICAL INSTITUTE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS  
VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider proposed change of the approval status from Initial to Full for the American Medical Institute in Houston, Texas, Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program based on the 2008 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the first graduating class, review of the 2008 NEPIS and 2008 CANEP, and the report of the June 16, 2009 survey visit.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Approval Status</b>	<b>NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First-Time Candidates Who Tested (Passed/Total)</b>
American Medical Institute VN Program	2009	Initial	88.89%	8/9

- In July 2007, the Board granted approval for American Medical Institute to establish a vocational nursing educational program, granted Initial approval and classes began in Fall 2007 with an initial enrollment of ten (10) students.
- One student from the first cohort of ten (10) students withdrew from the program for personal reasons, but was readmitted in the second cohort of twenty students.
- Board staff last conducted a site visit in February 12, 2007.
- The program has appropriately addressed all previous Board-issued recommendations and requirements.
- The program's first cohort of nine (9) students graduated in December 2008 and began taking the NCLEX-RN® examination in January 2009.
- Eight (8) of the nine (9) graduates passed the 2009 NCLEX-PN® examination and the program's overall pass rate is 88.89%.
- In early June 2009, the program moved to a different location and into a much larger facility without cancelling any classes or clinical rotations.
- Board staff conducted a survey visit of the program on June 16, 2009 and a report of the survey visit is included in this report, including photos of the new facility (See Attachment One).

**PROS AND CONS:**

Pros-

- The program's current overall 2009 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate is 88.89%.
- The program has appropriately addressed all previous Board-issued recommendations and requirements.
- The program has recently moved to a new location and into a larger facility.
- The program utilizes a full testing package for students with mandatory remediation.
- The program has applied for federal funding for students.

Cons-

- The program does not maintain a signed, written receipt of eligibility notification in each student's record for up to six months after each enrolled individual completes the nursing educational program or permanently withdraws from the program.
- The program does not have current student policies in place related to unprofessional conduct, dismissal from the program, and readmission to the program that clearly reflect the intent of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to patient safety and unprofessional conduct.

- Required student activities/assignments are present in several courses, e.g., independent development of nursing care plans, that are outside the scope of practice for licensed vocational nurses as outlined in Rule 217.11(2)(A)(iii) related to *Standards of Nursing Practice*.
- The faculty does not have specific criteria in place to use in the selection of new affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to change the program approval status of the American Medical Institute Vocational Nursing Educational Program from Initial to Full based on review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the first graduating class, review of the 2008 NEPIS and 2008 CANEP, and the report of the June 16, 2009 survey visit, and issue the commendation, recommendation and requirements to be met, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment Two).

**SURVEY VISIT  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM:** American Medical Institute in Houston, Texas  
Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program

**NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** Ify Emenaha, RN, PharmD, VN Program Director

**REASON FOR SURVEY VISIT:** Focused survey visit to evaluate the program's compliance with Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to initial approval status.

**DATE(S) OF SURVEY VISIT:** June 16, 2009

**SURVEY VISITOR(S):** Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING (BON) APPROVAL STATUS:** Initial

**DATE OF LAST BON SURVEY VISIT:** February 12, 2007, prior to Texas BON approval of the program

**NAME OF ACCREDITING/LICENSING AGENCIES:** No accreditation. Licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission

**ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY VISIT:**

Board staff:

1. Met with the School Administrator/Program Director.
2. Interviewed VN students and VN faculty;
3. Reviewed records and documents; and
4. Conducted a summary conference with the VN Program Director.

**SURVEY VISIT FINDINGS:**

Positive findings revealed during the survey visit include:

1. The School Administrator/VN Program Director and VN faculty, as well as the School Administrator, are dedicated to the success of the program and the success of the students.
2. The program recently moved its location and moved into a larger facility.
3. The VN program has an Advisory Committee composed of members of the community and representatives from local health care facilities. The Advisory Committee meets at once a year.
4. The faculty organization, consisting of the VN program director and three (3) full-time faculty and two (2) part-time faculty, routinely meets a minimum of twice a year.
5. The program uses HESI as the admission examination, HESI for the evaluative examination for all content areas, and HESI as the exit examination, but employs mandatory remediation for all students as part of this total testing package.
6. Jurisprudence content is integrated throughout the curriculum, but there is a separate course at the end of the program of study. Testing on this jurisprudence content is conducted throughout the program of study and in the separate course.
7. During interviews with graduates from the program, positive comments were heard regarding all aspects of the program.
8. There was only one (1) negative comment heard during interviews with the students and it was in regard to the lack of financial aid not being available for students. During the interview with VN program Director, the Board visitor learned that the program has applied for Veteran's Assistance and Title IV funding and the visit for this federal funding will be conducted this month, July 2009.

Areas of concern revealed during the survey visit include:

1. The program does not maintain a signed, written receipt of eligibility notification in each student's record for up to six months after each enrolled individual completes the nursing educational program or permanently withdraws from the program.
2. The program does not have current student policies in place related to unprofessional conduct, dismissal from the program, and readmission to the program that clearly reflect the intent of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to patient safety and unprofessional conduct.
3. Required student activities/assignments are present in several courses, e.g., independent development of nursing care plans, that are outside the scope of practice for licensed vocational nurses as outlined in Rule 217.11(2)(A)(iii) related to *Standards of Nursing Practice*.
4. The program has added at least two (2) new affiliating agencies/clinical facilities to use for clinical learning experiences, but faculty does not have specific criteria in place to use in the selection of new affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings.

**PROPOSED COMMENDATIONS:**

1. Commend the School Administrator/VN program director and the VN faculty, for their dedication to the success of the program and the success of the VN students.
2. Commend the program for maintaining continuity for the students during the recent change of location and move into a different facility by not cancelling classes or clinical learning experiences during the moving period.

**PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Rule 214.8(c) related to *Students* requires that "the vocational nursing educational program shall maintain written receipt of eligibility notification for up to six months after the enrolled individual completes the nursing educational program or permanently withdraws from the nursing educational program." Further, Rule 214.8(d) related to *Students* requires that "The program shall have well-defined written nursing student policies based upon statutory and Board requirements, including nursing student admission, dismissal, progression, and graduation policies that shall be developed, implemented and enforced." A review of the Faculty Handbook, the Student Handbook, and the VN Educational Program syllabi and interviews with the VN program director, VN faculty, and students revealed that the program does not maintain a signed, written receipt of eligibility notification in each student's record for up to six months after each enrolled individual completes the nursing educational program or permanently withdraws from the program and the program does not have current student policies in place related to unprofessional conduct, dismissal from the program, and readmission to the program that clearly reflect the intent of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to patient safety and unprofessional conduct. **Therefore**, the VN program shall maintain the a signed, written receipt of eligibility notification in each student's record for up to six months after graduation or until the student permanently withdraws for the nursing educational program. **Further**, the VN program director and the VN faculty shall develop/revise current student policies related to unprofessional conduct, dismissal from the program, and readmission to the program that clearly reflect the intent of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to patient safety and unprofessional conduct as outlined in Rule 214.8(e)(1-4).
2. Rule 214.9(a) related to *Program of Study* requires, in pertinent part, that "The program of study shall include both didactic and clinical learning experiences and shall be . . . designed to prepare graduates to practice according to the Standards of Nursing Practice as set forth in the Board's Rules and Regulations . . ." A review of the Faculty Handbook, the Student Handbook, the VN Educational Program syllabi and interviews with the VN program director, VN faculty, and students revealed that required student activities/assignments are present in several courses, e.g., independent development of nursing care plans, that are outside the scope of practice for licensed vocational nurses as outlined in Rule 217.11(2)(A)(iii) related to *Standards of Nursing Practice* and the Fundamentals and Personal Development courses lack specific mention of the

Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulation, including the Texas Standards of Nursing Practice, in the course objectives and content outline. **Therefore**, the VN program director and the VN faculty shall revise course requirements/assignments to eliminate those activities/assignments that are not part of the scope of practice for licensed vocational nurses in Texas as outlined in Rule 217.11(2)(A)(iii) related to *Standards of Nursing Practice* and revise the syllabi for the Fundamentals and Personal Development courses to include specific mention of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulations, including the Texas Standards of Nursing Practice, in the course objectives and content outline.

3. Rule 214.10(b) related to *Clinical Learning Experiences*: A review of the Faculty Handbook and interviews with the VN program director and the VN faculty revealed that faculty does not have specific criteria in place to use in the selection of new affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings. **Therefore**, the VN program director and the VN faculty shall develop specific criteria to use in the selection of new affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings which address safety and the need for students to achieve the program outcomes (goals) and course objectives through the practice of nursing care or observational experiences taking into consideration those areas outlined in the rule.

## Entrance





## Computer Lab











**DRAFT LETTER**

July 29, 2009

Ify Emenaha, RN, PharmD, Director  
Vocational Nursing Educational Program  
American Medical Institute  
10849 Kinghurst Drive, Suite 120  
Houston, Texas 77099

Dear Dr. Emenaha:

At the July 23-24, 2009 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) considered the initial approval status of the American Medical Institute's Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program in Houston, Texas, based on the 2008 NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rates, review of the 2008 Nursing Educational Program Information Survey (NEPIS), and report of the June 16, 2009 survey visit conducted by board staff.

Based upon the review of documents, it was the decision of the Texas BON to move the American Medical Institute's program approval status from Initial to Full, accept the survey visit report, and issue the following commendations and requirements to be met.

**COMMENDATIONS:**

1. Commend the School Administrator/VN program director and the VN faculty, for their dedication to the success of the program and the success of the VN students.
2. Commend the program for maintaining continuity for the students during the recent change of location and move into a different facility by not cancelling classes or clinical learning experiences during the moving period.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Rule 214.8(c) related to *Students* requires that "the vocational nursing educational program shall maintain written receipt of eligibility notification for up to six months after the enrolled individual completes the nursing educational program or permanently withdraws from the nursing educational program." Further, Rule 214.8(d) related to *Students* requires that "The program shall have well-defined written nursing student policies based upon statutory and Board requirements, including nursing student admission, dismissal, progression, and graduation policies that shall be developed, implemented and enforced." A review of the Faculty Handbook, the Student Handbook, and the VN Educational Program syllabi and interviews with the VN program director, VN faculty, and students revealed that the program does not maintain a signed, written receipt of eligibility notification in each student's record for up to six months after each enrolled individual completes the nursing educational program or permanently withdraws from the program and the program does not have current student policies in place related to unprofessional conduct, dismissal from the program, and readmission to the program that clearly reflect the intent of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to patient safety and unprofessional conduct. **Therefore**, the VN program shall maintain the signed written receipts of eligibility notification in each student's record for up to six months after graduation or until the student permanently withdraws from the nursing educational program. **Further**, the VN program director and the VN faculty shall develop/revise current student policies related to unprofessional conduct, dismissal from the program, and readmission to the program that clearly reflect the intent of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulations in regard to patient safety and unprofessional conduct as outlined in Rule 214.8(e)(1-4).
2. Rule 214.9(a) related to *Program of Study* requires, in pertinent part, that "The program of study shall include both didactic and clinical learning experiences and shall be . . . designed to prepare graduates to practice according to the Standards of Nursing Practice as set forth in the Board's Rules and Regulations . . ." A review of the Faculty Handbook, the Student Handbook, the VN Educational Program syllabi and interviews with the VN program director, VN faculty, and students revealed that

required student activities/assignments are present in several courses, e.g., independent development of nursing care plans, that are outside the scope of practice for licensed vocational nurses as outlined in Rule 217.11(2)(A)(iii) related to *Standards of Nursing Practice* and the Fundamentals and Personal Development courses lack specific mention of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulation, including the Texas Standards of Nursing Practice, in the course objectives and content outline. **Therefore**, the VN program director and the VN faculty shall revise course requirements/assignments to eliminate those activities/assignments that are not part of the scope of practice for licensed vocational nurses in Texas as outlined in Rule 217.11(2)(A)(iii) related to *Standards of Nursing Practice* and revise the syllabi for the Fundamentals and Personal Development courses to include specific mention of the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Texas BON rules and regulations, including the Texas Standards of Nursing Practice, in the course objectives and content outline.

3. Rule 214.10(b) related to *Clinical Learning Experiences*: A review of the Faculty Handbook and interviews with the VN program director and the VN faculty revealed that faculty does not have specific criteria in place to use in the selection of new affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings. **Therefore**, the VN program director and the VN faculty shall develop specific criteria to use in the selection of new affiliating agencies/clinical facilities or clinical practice settings which address safety and the need for students to achieve the program outcomes (goals) and course objectives through the practice of nursing care or observational experiences taking into consideration those areas outlined in the rule.

Requirements are mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule that shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. Documentation of the status of the program's address of the above recommendations and requirements to be met shall be submitted to the Board office by October 1, 2009. If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6815 or by email at [robbin.wilson@bon.state.tx.us](mailto:robbin.wilson@bon.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
Board President

Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

xc: Texas Workforce Commission