

**Consideration of Proposed Amendments to 22 Texas Administrative Code  
§215.2(4), relating to Definitions and §215.4, relating to Approval**  
*(To be reviewed in conjunction with Agenda Item 7.5)*

**Background:**

**§215.2(4)**

The proposed amendments are necessary to correct a typographical error in the rule text from *vocational* to *professional*.

**§215.4**

House Bill 2426, enacted by the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature, required the Board to identify national nursing accreditation agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education with standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards. In 2007, Board Staff conducted a comprehensive comparative review of the accreditation standards for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Board Staff identified eight approval areas among the accreditation standards that were substantially equivalent to Board standards and five approval areas that were not equivalent. Based upon these findings, Education Guideline 3.2.4.a. was adopted to identify the Board rules that programs accredited by ACEN or CCNE would be exempt from complying with and the Board rules that all programs, including the accredited programs, would be required to adhere to. These crosswalks have been updated over time as the accreditation standards have been revised.

On May 25, 2021, the National League for Nursing (NLN) Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA) was recognized by the United States Department of Education as a fully accrediting agency for an initial five-year period. Based upon an evaluation of the NLN CNEA standards, a full crosswalk has been developed with similar findings to those for the ACEN and CCNE crosswalks.

In Agenda Item 7.5, Board Staff has recommended that the Board add the name of the NLN CNEA to the list of Board-approved nursing accreditation agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education and determined by the Board to have standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards. Board Staff also recommends amending the title of Education Guideline 3.2.4.a. to remove specific reference to the names of approved accrediting agencies.

Board Rule 214.4(c)(8) currently includes reference to Education Guideline 3.2.4.a. The title of the education guideline, as cited in the rule, specifically references ACEN and

CCNE. Thus, whenever the Board chooses to add or remove an accreditation agency from its list of approved nursing accreditation agencies, the rule text must also be amended for consistency. In an effort to improve the efficiency and flexibility of this process, the proposed amendments remove reference to specific accreditation agencies from the title of the education guideline cited in subsection (c)(8). Instead, the rule refers to an amended title for Education Guideline 3.2.4.a that will allow the Board to approve additions/changes to the Board's approved list without the necessity of amending Board Rule 214.4(c)(8) each time the Board makes a change to the list.

**Board Action:** Move to approve the proposed amendments to 22 Texas Administrative Code §215.2(4), relating to *Definitions*, as set out in Attachment "A", with authority for the General Counsel to make editorial changes as necessary to clarify rule and Board intent and to comply with the formatting requirements of the *Texas Register*. If no negative comments and no request for a public hearing are received, move to adopt the proposed amendments to 22 Texas Administrative Code §215.2(4), relating to *Definitions*, as proposed.

Further, move to approve the proposed amendments to 22 Texas Administrative Code §215.4, relating to *Approval*, as set out in Attachment "A", with authority for the General Counsel to make editorial changes as necessary to clarify rule and Board intent and to comply with the formatting requirements of the *Texas Register*. If no negative comments and no request for a public hearing are received, move to adopt the proposed amendments to 22 Texas Administrative Code §215.4, relating to *Approval*, as proposed.

## **Attachment “A”**

### **§215.2. Definitions.**

Words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) – (3) (No change.)

(4) Approved professional ~~[vocational]~~ nursing education program--a Board-approved professional nursing education program that meets the requirements set forth in §215.9 of this title and prepares graduates to provide safe nursing care using concepts identified in the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs).

(5) – (45) (No change.)

### **§215.4. Approval.**

(a) – (b) (No change.)

(c) Ongoing Approval Procedures. Ongoing approval status is determined biennially by the Board on the basis of information reported or provided in the program's NEPIS and CANEP, NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates, program compliance with this chapter, and other program outcomes. Certificates of Board approval will be mailed to all Board-approved nursing programs biennially in even-numbered years.

(1) – (7) (No change.)

(8) A professional nursing education program is considered approved by the Board and exempt from Board rules that require ongoing approval as described in Board Education Guideline 3.2.4.a. Specific Exemptions from Education Rule Requirements for Nursing Education Programs Accredited by a Board-Approved National Nursing Accreditation Organization [~~Nursing Education Programs Accredited by the~~

~~Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and/or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education-Specific Exemptions from Education Rule Requirements]~~ if the program:

(A) – (C) (No change.)

(9) – (13) (No change.)

(d) (No change.)