



## Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701  
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**Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN**  
*Executive Director*

28 February 2014

Dear Nursing Stakeholder:

You have been identified by the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) as a key stakeholder with an interest in issues related to advanced practice nursing licensure and practice in the state of Texas. You are receiving this letter to advise you of a change in the regulation of advanced practice nursing.

During the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regular Legislative Session, Senate Bill (SB) 406 by Senator Jane Nelson made changes to regulatory terminology that included a new term—advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). APRN will replace the term “advanced practice nurse” that has been in use in Texas since the mid-1990’s as well as “advanced nurse practitioner” that was used prior to that time.

SB 406 also granted the Board clear authority to issue licenses to APRNs. This will be a second license. It is contingent upon licensure as a registered nurse (RN) and will not be issued without the applicant having a current, valid Texas RN license or a privilege to practice based on RN licensure in a state that is party to the Nurse Licensure Compact. Both the RN license and the APRN license must be in current status for the APRN to practice in the state of Texas. For those APRNs who have been approved to practice in more than one advanced practice role and population focus area (e.g. family nurse practitioner and nurse-midwife), only one license number will be issued. All advanced practice titles will be linked to a single APRN license number.

The APRN license number will deviate from the current format used for RN and vocational nurse licensure in the state of Texas. The new APRN license number will have an eight character format. Each license number will have the letters AP followed by six digits. For example, the APRN license number will appear as AP999999. There will not be a change to the RN license number format nor will the format for prescriptive authority identification numbers change.

We anticipate we will begin issuing the new license numbers on April 1, 2014. You will be able to verify APRN licensure using either the Texas RN license number or the new APRN license number. Over the course of the next two years, we will send each currently licensed APRN a new wall certificate with his/her new APRN license number identified on the certificate. The wall certificates will be sent to the APRN following the next renewal of his/her license(s). It is the APRN’s responsibility to notify employers, third party payers and other appropriate entities of the new license number.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We are happy to answer any questions you may have or provide you with any additional information that may be helpful to you. You are welcome to contact the APRN department staff by telephone at (512) 305-6843 during regular business hours or by e-mail at [aprn@bon.texas.gov](mailto:aprn@bon.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director

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