



CNPs, CNSs, CNMs – Transition to Licensure

HB 216 – New law effective April 6, 2017

This document addresses questions and provides general information about transitioning to APRN licensure with a designation as a CNP, CNS or CNM, including 2017 deadlines for both RN and the 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance process.¹

HB 216 eliminates the certificate of authority (COA) and the Certificate to Prescribe (CTP) and replaces them with an APRN license that will designate APRNs as CRNAs, CNPs, CNSs, or CNMs. The bill makes additional changes to Chapter 4723., Ohio Revised Code (ORC), also known as the Nurse Practice Act, as well as other related ORC sections. The bill becomes law on April 6, 2017.

HB 216 Overview and APRN Licensure for CNPs, CNSs and CNMs

Overview

HB 216 requires that APRNs practicing with the designations of CNPs, CNSs or CNMs be “licensed” in Ohio rather than certified. The transition to becoming licensed for APRNs who hold a COA begins July 1, 2017 as part of the 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance process.

The bill eliminates the COA and the CTP and replaces these certificates with an APRN license with CNP, CNS or CNM designations.

The bill authorizes, until December 31, 2017, current certificate holders to practice and/or prescribe as CNPs, CNSs or CNMs under the authority of their COA and CTP.

The bill mandates that any person who wishes to continue to practice in Ohio as an APRN with a designation of CNP, CNS or CNM obtain licensure in Ohio no later than the statutory deadline of December 31, 2017. Licensure will include prescriptive authority for all CNPs, CNSs, and CNMs who meet the requirements of HB 216.

¹ This is one of four Board summaries regarding HB 216 that are available on the Board website at www.nursing.ohio.gov: Summary of Major Provisions of HB 216; CNPs, CNSs, CNMs--Transition to Licensure; CRNAs--Transition to Licensure; Advanced Pharmacology Licensure Requirements. The Board will post additional information and FAQs in the future.

- Please note -- to be licensed as an APRN you must also be licensed as an RN, so you must complete both your RN license renewal and the 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance process and meet the applicable deadlines below.

The Board anticipates that it will no longer issue new CTPs and CTP externships (CTP-Es) but will begin licensing new APRN applicants on or after April 6, 2017. The Board will work with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and their contractor to confirm that the needed IT modifications will be made by this date in the Ohio eLicense system.

CNPs, CNSs and CNMs who **currently hold or have held** a CTP or CTP-E

CNPs, CNSs, and CNMs who currently hold an active COA and hold or have held a CTP or CTP-E that is not restricted or revoked in Ohio prior to April 6, 2017 will have met the requirements of HB 216 and will be eligible for APRN licensure.

APRN licensure will occur by completing the RN renewal and COA renewal/APRN license issuance process beginning July 1, 2017. As a result of completing this renewal/conversion, these CNPs, CNSs, and CNMs will be licensed with a specialty designation and the authority to prescribe.

- These nurses must complete their RN license renewal on or before October 31, 2017 and the COA renewal/APRN license issuance process on or before December 31, 2017.

Those with a lapsed or inactive COA must submit a reactivation or reinstatement application to make the COA active prior to completing the 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance process.

CNPs, CNSs and CNMs who **have never held** a CTP or CTP-E prior to April 6, 2017

CNPs, CNSs and CNMs who hold an active COA, but never obtained a CTP, CTP-E, or the required 45 hours of advanced pharmacology in the last five years, are not immediately eligible for APRN licensure.

To be licensed, these COA holders must submit documentation to the Board, *through the 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance process beginning July 1, 2017*, that they obtained the 45 hours of advanced pharmacology education required for APRN licensure as a CNP, CNS or CNM.

- CNPs, CNSs and CNMs with only a COA are authorized, under HB 216, to practice as an APRN until December 31, 2017 under the COA.
- In order for CNPs, CNSs and CNMs with only a COA to continue to practice as an APRN after December 31, 2017, they must obtain the 45 hours of advanced pharmacology and submit documentation of the completed course of study *as part of the COA renewal/APRN license issuance process* by December 31, 2017.

- If these COA holders do not obtain the 45 hours of advanced pharmacology and/or fail to submit adequate documentation of the completed course of study *as part of the COA renewal/APRN license issuance process* by December 31, 2017, **they must cease APRN practice on January 1, 2018. COAs will no longer be recognized beginning in 2018.**
- A total of 45 contact hours of advanced pharmacology education is needed to obtain a license for all CNPs, CNSs and CNMs. HB 216 did not make any changes in the content required for the 45 contact hours. There must be a minimum of 36 hours in advanced pharmacology from a single provider. In addition, the education must include fiscal/ethical implications of prescribing, “state and federal” laws applicable to prescribing, instruction specific to schedule II which includes pain management therapies, fiscal/ethical implications for schedule II, “state and federal” laws about schedule II, prevention of abuse, and diversion of schedule II. See Section 4723.482(B), ORC, for details about the content.
- The Board rules allow schedule II instruction to be integrated, and specify that the course *can be faculty directed and obtained from either an accredited education institution acceptable to the board or a continuing education (CE) program that meets the requirements of Chapter 4723-14, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).* See Rule 4723-9-02, OAC, for details.
- Many APRNs obtain the advanced pharmacology contact hours for CE online through Fitzgerald or Barkley and Associates and in addition may take a course(s) offered by the Ohio Nurses Association, “Prescribing Schedule II Medications: An Online Course for APRNs who Prescribe in Ohio” or “APRN Schedule II 3 Hour Course” at <https://ce4nurses.org>.
- Courses offered by other companies or organizations would also be acceptable as long as the specified requirements are met and a total of 45 contact hours are obtained.

New Applicants for CNP, CNS or CNM Designation on or after April 6, 2017

The Board will begin licensing new APRN applicants with designations as CNPs, CNSs or CNMs beginning on or after April 6, 2017. These licenses will include the authority to prescribe.

- The Board plans to begin licensing and stop “certifying” new APRN applicants on or after April 6, 2017. The Board will confirm this once DAS and their contractor verify that the needed IT modifications will be made by this date in the Ohio eLicense system.
- To become newly licensed as a CNP, CNS, and CNM, applicants must have 45 contact hours of advanced pharmacology education within the last five years. The standard curriculum for master’s degree in nursing programs includes a 3-hour course (a semester hour is equal to 45 contact hours) in advanced pharmacology. Therefore, Ohio APRN applicants with a master’s degree in nursing within the past 5 years should have obtained 45 hours of advanced pharmacology as part of their core

curriculum. These applicants would meet the pharmacology education requirement to be licensed as an APRN.

IMPORTANT RENEWAL DEADLINES
RN License Renewal and 2017 COA Renewal/APRN License Issuance

APRNs may renew their RN license and complete the COA renewal/APRN license issuance process on or after July 1, 2017.

The final deadline for APRNs to renew their **RN license** is **October 31, 2017**.

- APRNs must renew their RN license to be eligible to complete the COA renewal/APRN license issuance process.
- The late processing fee for RN renewal goes into effect on September 16, 2017.
- Those renewing their RN license on or after September 16, 2017 will pay an additional \$50.00.

The final deadline for APRNs to **complete the COA renewal/APRN license issuance process** is **December 31, 2017** because HB 216 specifies that current COAs will remain valid until December 31, 2017.

- The renewal/license issuance fee is \$135.
- There is no late processing fee for the COA this year.

The Board recommends APRNs complete the RN renewal and the COA renewal/APRN license issuance processes at the same time to assure timely renewals. Please remember to complete **BOTH** processes in order to complete all the required steps to become a licensed APRN.

Questions?

We want to answer your questions, but we don't want to miss your call. We will be renewing and issuing over 200,000 nursing licenses in 2017.

If you have questions concerning licensure and HB 216, please e-mail us at the Board so that we can more timely address your questions and those of your fellow licensees.

Please email practice216@nursing.ohio.gov

[On the front page of the Board website \(www.nursing.ohio.gov\)](http://www.nursing.ohio.gov), please click on "[Subscribe to eNews, Facebook, and Twitter](#)" to sign up to receive Board updates and alerts regarding HB 216 and renewal.