



# NHA NEWSLETTER



FALL/WINTER 2001

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Any person who holds a license as a nursing home administrator is required by the Board of Nursing Home Administrators to complete 20 hours of approved continuing education for each renewal year. Only first year licensees are exempt from this requirement.

To be approved, a continuing education course shall be related to health care administration and shall be approved by the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators or by an accredited institution. An accredited institution is defined in regulations, at **18 VAC 95-20-10**, as "...any degree-granting college or university accredited by the United States Department of Education or any diploma-granting program approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing."

Licensees are required to maintain complete documentation of their continuing education including evidence of attendance provided by the approved sponsor. The

evidence may be a wall certificate or an original computerized document and must include:

- \* **The date or dates the course was taken**
- \* **Hours attended**
- \* **Participant's name, and**
- \* **Signature of an authorized representative of the approved sponsor.**

The Board conducts audits to verify that continuing education requirements are being met in accordance with the Board's regulations. The regulation can be found at **18 VAC 95-20-175** of the Virginia Administrative Code and can be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.dhp.state.va.us>. Click on the Boards tab and scroll down to Nursing Home Administrators.

Licensees are selected at random to be audited. Those selected will receive a cover letter and affidavit from the Board. The licensee is expected to return the signed affidavit and evidence of attendance

by the date specified. Failure to respond or failure to complete the continuing education requirements may lead to disciplinary action by the Board.

It should be noted that up to ten hours in excess of the twenty required each year may be credited to the next renewal year. If you earn 30 hours in one year you can use 10 of those hours for the next year. Also, the Board may grant an extension of up to one year or an exemption for all or part of the continuing education requirements due to circumstances beyond the control of the administrator; such as a certified illness, temporary disability, mandatory military service, or an officially declared disaster.



## NURSING HOME FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to **Arleigh Burke Pavilion** on receiving its 7th deficiency-free survey as conducted by the Virginia Department of Health's Center of Quality Health Care Services and Consumer Protection. Arleigh Burke Pavilion, located in McLean, Virginia, serves about 90 residents and is administered by Robert DeMaria.



According to their Community Relations Department, "This deficiency-free survey reflects great dedication and professionalism on behalf of the men and women employed at Arleigh Burke Pavilion to safeguard the health and well being of Virginians entrusted to their care."

Again congratulations on a job well done!

### HIGHLIGHT YOUR FACILITY!

The Board wishes to highlight deficiency-free nursing home facilities in the upcoming editions of the newsletter. If you would like to nominate your facility, you may contact the Board's office at (804) 662-7457.



## BOARD MEMBERS

Monty W. Plymale  
**Chair**  
1<sup>st</sup> term ends 06/30/2003

Joseph C. Almond  
**Vice Chair**  
1<sup>st</sup> term ends 6/30/2004

Delores C. Darnell  
1<sup>st</sup> term ends 06/30/2002

Helen Donovan  
1<sup>st</sup> term ends 06/30/2004

Winifred A. Pizzano  
1<sup>st</sup> term ends 06/30/2001

Betty G. Solomonson  
1<sup>st</sup> term ends 06/30/2001

Nancy O. Wilhite  
1<sup>st</sup> term ends 06/30/2002



## DISCIPLINARY ACTION



### ENTERED

10/20/2000  
10/29/2001

### NAME

Marsha Durham  
Charles Rehnborg

### LOCATION

Big Stone Gap, VA  
Oklahoma

### SANCTIONS

Reprimand  
Revoked

### NATURE OF COMPLAINT

Facility Violation  
Not on-site full-time

## Examination Fees

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001 the Board of Governors of the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators (NAB) approved nominal fee increases for its examination programs effective January 1, 2002. The fee changes are:

<u>EXAMINATION</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Fee Effective 1/1/02</u>
Nursing Home Administrators Examination	\$235.00	\$245.00
Assisted Living Administrators Examination	\$190.00	\$195.00
State Law Examination	\$115.00	\$120.00

After January 1, 2002 candidates will access the *Information for Candidates Handbook* electronically. Candidates who plan to sit for the examination after January 1<sup>st</sup> can access the handbook and the fee payment form at [www.nabweb.org](http://www.nabweb.org). Once on the NAB web page, click on programs then scroll down to the NHA handbook. It will be available in MSWord and PDF formats.

## What You Need to Know about the "Flu" Vaccine – Information for Nursing Homes

Prepared by Elizabeth Barrett, D.M.D., M.S.P.M  
Assistant State Epidemiologist, Virginia Department of Health

All residents and staff need to be vaccinated to prevent serious illness and death in a facility. The only exceptions are persons with a bona-fide allergy to eggs or to the vaccine components. This information can be deduced by asking the following questions:

### *Do you eat eggs, including eggs in cookies and cakes?*

Anyone who answers "yes" is not allergic to eggs.

### *Have you ever broken out in hives, experienced respiratory distress, or anaphylactic shock after receiving the flu vaccine?*

Anyone who answers "no" is not allergic to the vaccine or its components.

All persons admitted to a facility during flu season (typically November-March) should be vaccinated. Most facilities hold annual vaccine campaigns during October thru mid November. When facilities fail to vaccinate persons admitted after their campaigns end this results in poor overall rates of vaccination and increases the risk of an outbreak. Facilities should delay giving the vaccine to persons with an acute febrile illness until

their symptoms have passed. But should not forget to administer the vaccine once the resident have recovered.

No one can get the flu from the vaccine. It is a killed-virus vaccine and it is IMPOSSIBLE to become ill from it. It takes approximately 2 weeks to develop protective antibodies from the time of vaccination.

When a new admission arrives, facilities should determine if the person has already received the flu vaccine. If it is not possible to ascertain this information, the vaccination should be administered, as it is not harmful to receive it twice. (The same information is true for the pneumococcal vaccination)

Call the local health department if assistance in beginning a flu prevention program is needed. Some local health departments are willing to make visits to nursing homes and hold a vaccine in-service for the staff. Nursing Home Administrators should call the local health department if their facility experi-

ences an increase in respiratory illnesses during the "flu season" especially if it is associated with hospitalizations or deaths. Local health departments' staffs are trained in obtaining specimens to confirm the flu and also in methods to prevent the flu from spreading.

### BOARD STAFF

Sandra K. Reen  
Executive Director

Cheri Emma-Leigh  
Operations Manager

Lloyd Devonish  
Office Services Specialist

Pam Horner  
Administrative Assistant

Kathy Lackey  
Licensing Specialist

Sheila Lester-Mitchell  
Records Manager

# CERTIFIED NURSING FACILITY EDUCATION INITIATIVE

By Delores Darnell

Member, Virginia Board of Nursing Home Administrators

The Certified Nursing Facility Education Initiative, or CNFEI, was developed as a result of a public-private partnership to use civil Money Penalty funds, which results from fines paid by nursing facilities that are not in compliance with federal survey guidelines, to benefit nursing facility residents and staff. Based on the federally mandated surveys, about 25 to 30 % of nursing facilities are deficiency free. There may be deficiencies that are not considered serious and they are noted with no further sanctions. In more extreme cases, the nursing facility may be denied payment for Medicare and Medicaid new admissions, be assessed a Civil Money Penalty, or have their Medicare and Medicaid certification revoked. Revocation of Medicare and Medicaid certification could result in the residents having to be relocated. In this situation, nobody wins.

Providers, state agencies, and advocates agree that facilities needed education and positive intervention at early stages to correct problems and to maintain ongoing compliance once corrections were in place. Based on this vision, the CNFEI was created by legislation in the 2000 General Assembly as a non-profit

corporation to provide services to nursing facilities that would help them to succeed. Civil Money Penalty funds were used as "seed money" to establish the corporation and to provide the groundwork so that services can be provided as cost to interested nursing facilities. The CNFEI was enacted with a sunset clause (three years from the date of enactment) to assure adequate assessment of its effectiveness.

Priorities include assisting those facilities that are having compliance issues, including developing plans of correction, and monitoring systems put in place to assure quality of care. CNFEI will focus on individual facility assessment and assistance while working within accepted clinical practice guidelines, which may already be in place within the facility. CNFEI will also serve as a repository for "Best Practices". [www.cnfeducation.com](http://www.cnfeducation.com) will direct users forwards useful practice information and CNFEI will offer on-site reviews of existing and proposed "Best Practices" programming.

CNFEI Board of Directors include Betty DeOrnellas, Robert Gerndt and Charles Rehnberg, all Licensed Nursing Home Administrators as well as representatives from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and Agency representatives from the Department of Health, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Medical Assistance Services and the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

**Delores Darnell is the Executive Director of CNFEI. She also is a Registered Nurse certified in Gerontology, a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator and Preceptor who holds a B.A. in Health Care Administration and has an extensive background in long-term care.**



## CURRENT LICENSE STATISTICS

Nursing Home Administrators	714
Nursing Home Preceptors	178
Administrator in Training	29

## Board Composition Changed

As a result of legislation passed by the 2001 General Assembly, the composition of the Board of Nursing Home Administrators is being changed. While the Board will continue to have seven members, the provisions for membership in §54.1-3101 of the Code of Virginia were changed to:

- § increase the number of licensed nursing home administrators from three to four,
- § decrease the number of persons from professions and institutions concerned with the care and treatment of chronically ill and elderly patients from four to two, and
- § add one person who is a resident of a nursing home, or a family member of a resident of a nursing home.

These changes will be implemented through the gubernatorial appointment process.

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Virginia Board Of Nursing Home Administrators  
6606 West Broad Street, 4th Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23230-1717



Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

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## YOUR COMMENTS ARE WELCOMED

In accordance with 18 VAC 95-10-50 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Board of Nursing Home Administrators welcomes comments on any issue related to the laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing home administration. The law governing such petition states the following:

### Public Participation Procedures.

#### 18 VAC 95-10-50 Petition for rulemaking

- A. As provided in § 9-6.14:7.1. of the Code of Virginia, any person may petition the board to develop a new regulation or amend an existing regulation.
- B. A petition shall include but need not be limited to the following:
  - 1. The petitioner's name, mailing address, telephone number, and, if applicable, the organization represented in the petition.
  - 2. The number and title of the regulation to be addressed.
  - 3. A description of the regulatory problem or need to be addressed.
  - 4. A recommended addition, deletion, or amendment to the regulation.
- C. The board shall receive, consider and respond to a petition within 180 days.
- D. Nothing herein shall prohibit the board from receiving information from the public and proceeding on its own motion for rulemaking.

A petition may be submitted in writing to the Board or sent by e-mail to [sandra.reen@dhp.state.va.us](mailto:sandra.reen@dhp.state.va.us).

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