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Mission:

Protect the public’s health and safety by providing reasonable assurance that the people who practice nursing are competent, ethical practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills appropriate to their title and role.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Nursing, Board of supports the following statewide outcome(s).
 People in Minnesota are safe.

Context:

Nursing regulation exists to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public in their receipt of nursing services. The Board of Nursing holds nurses accountable for conduct based on legal, ethical and professional standards and achieves its mandate of public protection by outlining these standards and issuing a license to practice nursing. Once a license is issued, the Board’s job continues by monitoring licensees’ compliance to state laws and taking action against the licenses of those nurses who have exhibited unsafe nursing practice and present a risk of harm to the public. Primary customers are members of the public, employers, applicants, licensees, nursing education programs, and agencies of local, state, and federal government. The Board is funded by fees and receives no general fund dollars. Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) section 214.06, subd. 1(a) compels the Board to collect fees in the amount sufficient to cover expenditures.

Strategies:

The Board provides for public safety and contributes to the above statewide outcomes by:

- Assuring an ethical and competent nursing workforce through comprehensive credentials review
- Establishing and conducting a complaint investigation process that is expedient and just
- Upholding standards for nursing education approval through consultation and survey
- Exchanging data with state, national and federal agencies and information systems
- Collaborating in statewide initiatives on nursing practice, education and patient safety
- Maximizing technology for services and paperless meetings
- Collaborating with other licensing boards to operate an inter-board monitoring program for health professionals whose practice is impaired due to illness and a voluntary cooperative administrative services unit to perform common accounting, purchasing, human resources and technology functions

The Board engages with other state agencies to assure congruence on issues involving health care delivery, patient safety issues, and coalitions of health care providers and enforcement agencies to identify best practices for addressing violations of the law such as drug diversion and patient abuse.

Results:

The Board is committed to performance measurement and quality improvement and participates in a two-year cycle collection and analysis of data related to nursing regulation through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Commitment to Ongoing Regulatory Excellence program (CORE). The 2011 report ranked the Board above average in 25 areas and at the national level in all others. The Board uses the data to analyze self-performance and compare to other like boards of nursing to determine areas for improvement.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
Licenses issued within 24 hours of meeting all requirements	99.9%	99.9%	Stable
Public availability of data on nursing licensure and authority to practice			
Online renewal display to public in real-time	100%	100%	Stable
All other licensure services display within 24 hours	100%	100%	Stable
On-line verifications of license	267,428	335,118	Improving
Use of all on-line licensure services	87%	91%	Improving
Complaint resolution cycle			
Average time to resolve complaint	220 day	194 days	Improving
Number of cases older than 180 days	74%	62%	Improving
Automatic verification service use	17,000 licenses	25,000 licenses	Improving

Performance Measures Notes:

Data source is 2009 (previous) and 2011 (current) CORE report as submitted by the Board of Nursing, as well as the Board of Nursing's Licensure Database.