

CNA Course Student/Teacher Ratio Dec. 2010

Kathleen Park, TEA: 512-463-9581; Kathleen.park@tea.state.tx.us

12/2/: Per phone conversation with Kathleen (she has verified input below):

- Does not know student/teacher ratio for CNA; TEA does not regulate.
- Need to contact licensing agency for current student/teacher ratio in public high schools for CNA course (Kathy recommends contacting TX DADS)

12/7: Kathy's email:

- "I would like to add that once a school district decides on certification opportunities for students, the school district must contact the regulatory agency over the certification and determine if the school district can meet the rules/regulations of that particular agency."

Texas DADS: 512-438-2017 Charlotte Reed; charlotte.reed@dads.state.tx.us

12/3: Per phone conversation with Charlotte (she has verified input below):

- No student/teacher ratio rule at TX DADS's for RN's teaching CNA in Texas public high schools.
- Other high schools are calling TX DADS about teacher/student ratio. Other high schools have concern over low class enrollment; not enough students to fund teacher salary (she said, "you are not the only one with this problem and the Texas budget crunch")
- Charlotte suggests contacting Texas Board of Nursing to see if they have a ratio rule limit for RN's
- Some NATCEP programs instruct adult CNA students at a much higher rate but most nursing homes have a set # of individuals allowed in the facility. This is determined by the agreement letter between the facility and the training program. Also, NACES 1-800-444-5178 (company responsible for scheduling the test) will only test a certain amount of individuals, but you may break it down into a few dates/days of testing if you have more than the required # that they will test.

Texas DADS: 903-533-4449; Nancy Capet-Davis; Nancy.Capet-Davis@dads.state.tx.us

12/3: Conversation with Nancy Capet-Davis and her emails (she has verified input below):

- There is no written documentation concerning teacher/student ratio for CNA instruction. There is documentation for university RN clinical instruction on the following web: <http://www.bne.state.tx.us/nursingeducation/edudocs/3-8-2-a.pdf>
- The high school teachers, who are RN's, are remembering the RN instruction ratio requirements of (10:1) that pertained to them while they were students in an RN program. **There is no requirement in Texas Administrative Code Chapter 94 (which addresses the regulations for a nurse aide program) that addresses the instructor to student ratio for a nurse aide training program.**

Texas DADS: 903-533-4449; Nancy Capet-Davis; Nancy.Capet-Davis@dads.state.tx.us

12/15: Nancy's email below:

Hi Cherie, here is the answer to the first bullet (directly from the TX Administrative Code):

- Is there a statute requirement on how many hands-on clinic hours a student must have in order to obtain a CNA?

(h) Each NATCEP must teach a minimum of 75 clock hours of training, including at least:

- (1) 51 clock hours of classroom training defined as classroom and skills training that does not involve direct care of residents by trainees; and
- (2) 24 clock hours of clinical training defined as hands-on care of residents in a nursing facility

For the second bullet, the only time frame mentioned in the TX Administrative Code pertaining to the Certified Nurse Aide Training Program is:

- Or, are students allowed a one year time frame to successfully complete the hands-on skills at a facility (nursing home, hospital) for CNA?

The examinee is responsible for:

- (1) taking the examination within 24 months of completion of the training portion of the NATCEP:
 - (A) with the NATCEP where the examinee was trained;
 - (B) at an approved facility from which the individual has received an offer of employment or is employed;
 - (C) at an approved facility or NATCEP that has volunteered to accept the examinee for examination;
- (2) verifying the arrangements for examination with the examination site;

These statements may be found at the following website address:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=40&pt=1&ch=94&rl=Y](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=40&pt=1&ch=94&rl=Y)

Texas Nursing Board: 512-305-7400

http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursingeducation/faq_clinical.html#faq2

- 12/3 conversation with Patricia Vianes-Cabrera; Patricia.Vianes-Cabrera@bon.state.tx.us
 - Q:** Does Texas Nursing Board have a rule on student/teacher ratio for CNA instruction by an RN?
A: "We regulate RN's and LVN's not CNA's"
 - Q:** I've heard RN's may lose their license with too many students. How it is possible for RN to lose license when teaching CNA?
A: "A nurse who delegates a task to an unlicensed individual and a negative outcome occurs with the patient as the result of the unlicensed personnel performing the task under the delegation of the nurse, then the nurse would be subject to investigation and disciplinary action up to and including revocation of the license IF it was determined that there was a violation of the NPA or Board Rules and Regulations. "

Texas Board of Nursing: 512-305-6841 Melinda Hester Melinda.hester@bon.state.tx.us
(**From:** Hester, Melinda [mailto:Melinda.Hester@bon.state.tx.us])
Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 1:31 PM
To: King, Cherie
Subject: RN/Student Ratio in a CNA Course

Good Afternoon Ms. King,

The Texas Board of Nursing regulates the education, licensure, and practice of nursing and **does not have the authority to determine the RN/student ratio in a CNA course provided by a school district.** You may wish to speak with the Texas Education Agency at www.tea.state.tx.us or the Department of Aging and Disability Services at www.dads.state.tx.us.

Regarding the first bullet point: the RN retains the accountability while transferring the responsibility for the performance of a task to an unlicensed person. RN's have been disciplined in the past for not appropriately delegating tasks to an unlicensed person, i.e.: if the unlicensed person did not receive adequate training and was not competent to perform a task that a RN had delegated. Regarding your second bullet point: determinations of wrong doing can not be made via email or over the phone; however, RNs are responsible for the assignments they accept. In other words, when a nurse accepts an assignment, he or she must be skilled, competent, physically, and emotionally able to safely complete the assignment within all applicable laws that apply to the setting [See Rule 217.11(1) (A),(B), and (T)]. Nurses working in school districts must consider all the laws that apply to their practice setting, i.e.: their school district policy, the Texas Education Code as well as their licensure laws.

The RN delegation rules and resources are located on the Board's website, www.bon.state.tx.us under *Nursing Practice*, then *Delegation Resource Packet*. The most current version of the Nursing Practice Act and Rules and Regulations are also available under *Nursing Law and Rules*. I hope this is helpful.

Sincerely,

Melinda G Hester, MS, RN

Lead Nursing Consultant for Practice

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460

Austin, TX 78701

(512) 305-6841 (office)

(512) 305-8101 (fax)

Summary:

- **There is no requirement in Texas Administrative Code Chapter 94 (which addresses the regulations for a nurse aide program) that addresses the instructor to student ratio for a nurse aide training program.**