

NCLEX® for VisaScreen™ through NCSBN: General Information

VISASCREEN ELIGIBILITY

Section 343 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) requires that certain health care professionals successfully complete a screening program (U.S. VisaScreen™) before receiving an occupational visa, such as the H-1B, H-2B, TN status, and permanent (green card) visas. VisaScreen: Visa Credentials Assessment, a program offered by the International Commission on Healthcare Professions (ICHP), a division of The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), enables healthcare professionals to meet this requirement by verifying and evaluating their credentials to ensure compliance with the government's minimum eligibility standards. CGFNS/ICHP is currently the only provider recognized by the U.S. Federal Government to provide VisaScreen.

Under the final rules, certain nurses who are seeking temporary or permanent occupational visas as well as those who are seeking NAFTA status are required to first obtain a U.S. VisaScreen as part of the visa process. Canadian and Mexican workers who are already working in the U.S. are subject to this requirement. Although the final rule took effect September 2003, a grace period is in place until July 26, 2004. NCSBN does not determine requirements or eligibility for the VisaScreen. Information regarding new certification requirements for non-immigrant alien health care workers may be obtained from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at: http://uscis.gov/graphics/howdoi/Health_Cert.htm.

NCLEX® FOR VISASCREEN REGISTRATION PROCESS

With a State Board

If currently licensed candidates choose to apply to one of the following boards of nursing, the board may grant eligibility to the candidate to take the NCLEX examination to assist in the completion of

the VisaScreen requirements. The following state boards of nursing will allow qualified candidates to take the NCLEX: **Arkansas, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Virgin Islands.** For more information on registering with a state board of nursing to take the NCLEX examination to assist in the completion of the VisaScreen requirements, please contact any of the above states through the following link before registering for the NCLEX Examination with Pearson VUE: http://www.ncsbn.org/regulation/boards_ofnursing_boards_of_nursing_board.asp.

NCSBN will continue to grant qualified candidates eligibility to take the NCLEX examination to aid in satisfying the VisaScreen requirements through September 30, 2005. Please note – The deadline for registering for the NCLEX examination through NCSBN is June 1, 2005. NCSBN NCLEX for VisaScreen Applications must be post-marked no later than July 1, 2005. The deadline for taking the NCLEX examination is September 30, 2005. The validity dates for the candidate's Authorization to Test (ATT) will be pro-rated to the September 30, 2005 deadline. Candidates failing to mail their applications by the July 1, 2005 deadline will be required to change the jurisdictions of their registrations to an appropriate board of nursing assisting with the VisaScreen. Candidates will be required to pay a \$50 fee for this correction.

With NCSBN

For currently licensed candidates to take the NCLEX for VisaScreen with NCSBN, there is a two-step registration and application process:

1. Complete an NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN® examination registration with Pearson VUE. The NCSBN NCLEX for VisaScreen Candidate Bulletin, which contains all the information necessary to register for the examination, and examination administration rules is available from the

NCSBN Web site at http://www.ncsbn.org/pdfs/NCLEX_Visa_FAQ_041305.pdf. Candidates have two registration options:

- (1) On the Internet at: <http://www.pearsonvue.com/nclex/> or
- (2) By phone at 1.866.496.2539 (toll-free). Unlike NCLEX examination registration for licensure, candidates for NCLEX for VisaScreen will not have the option to register for the examination by mail. Each NCLEX examination registration costs **\$200.00 (U.S. Dollars)**.

2. After examination registration process with Pearson is complete, the applicant will be sent via mail a NCSBN NCLEX for VisaScreen application. This form must be completed and returned to NCSBN with: a notarized copy of the information page from a valid passport and/or birth certificate, a copy of your completed ICHP/CGFNS VisaScreen application with CGFNS ID number, a current passport photo (no photocopies), and the application fee. In addition, your nursing license will be independently verified by NCSBN. Once these documents and information are received and validated, NCSBN will make you eligible to take the examination. The NCSBN NCLEX for VisaScreen application fee is **\$50.00 (U.S. Dollars)**.

If you would like to register with Pearson VUE for the NCLEX examination for the VisaScreen, visit: <http://www.pearsonvue.com/nclex/>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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