

# Leader *to* Leader

Nursing Regulation & Education Together

Spring 2012

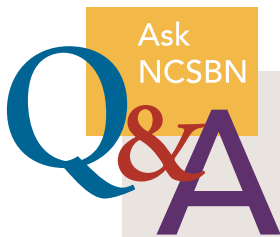
## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A Nursing Regulator

For this issue's "A Day in the Life of a Nursing Regulator," we turn to **Shirley Brekken**, MS, RN, who not only serves as the executive director of the Minnesota Board of Nursing (MNBN), but also as the vice president of the NCSBN Board of Directors (BOD). In this interview, Brekken offers us a glimpse into the busy life of an executive director and how she has become "the face" of the MNBN. She also explains what boards of nursing (BONs) do for the public, nurses and nursing educators, and discusses the relationship between BONs and NCSBN.

*You've worked as a public health nurse, school nurse, obstetric and pediatric nurse, and nurse educator before becoming a member of the MNBN in 1986. What inspired you to join the BON?*

Some of my colleagues encouraged me to apply to become a board member in 1986; and here I am, 26 years later. I served on the MNBN for nearly eight years, including a term as president. During that time, I was fortunate to do additional work in policy development with a state senator while in graduate school. That was when I got hooked on policy and regulation.

— Shirley Brekken, MS, RN





Social media has become a hot topic in nursing, and not necessarily for the right reasons. Several boards of nursing (BONs) have reported receiving complaints against nurses and nursing students for violating patient confidentiality via social media websites. What seems like an innocent post on Facebook or any other social media modality could have legal and professional repercussions.

For some, the easiest thing to do is “outlaw” social media from health care environments altogether, but there are numerous potential benefits of social media within the nursing profession. It fosters professional connections, promotes timely communication with patients and family members, and educates and informs consumers and health care professionals. With these potential benefits in mind, NCSBN developed educational tools for the nursing community that outline the proper use of social media within the profession without violating patient privacy and confidentiality laws.

NCSBN’s “A Nurse’s Guide to the Use of Social Media” educates new and experienced nurses about the proper use of social media and how to better utilize the medium personally and professionally. Since the brochure was introduced in December 2011, more than 50,000 brochures have been requested by BONs, nursing schools, hospitals and health care systems.

This free brochure isn’t the only thing generating popularity within the nursing community. NCSBN’s video “Social Media Guidelines for Nurses” visually illustrates potential scenarios and consequences of inappropriate social media use. The video has more than 11,000 hits on the online video sharing sites [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#).

Nursing educators are incorporating these free educational tools

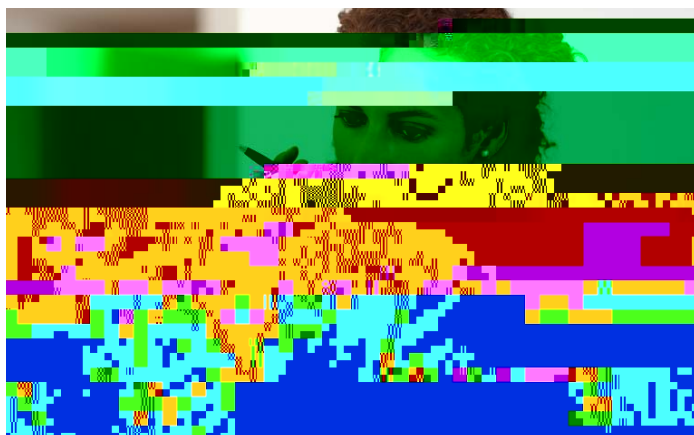
using both the brochure and video in class projects. Requests have even poured in from school districts, medical insurance companies and long-term care facilities.

NCSBN created a [website](#) dedicated to the topic of social media. Additional resources, including a white paper, an article from the *Journal of Nursing Regulation* and social media presentations are available to download free of charge. ●





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NCSBN's examinations rely on the contribution of hundreds of volunteers who give their time and expertise to participate on item development panels. These item development panels are a key component in maintaining high quality items and take place year round in Chicago.

## NCLEX® Item Development Panels

### Qualifications to Serve

*To serve on an NCLEX® Item Development Panel, the panel member must be:*

1. Currently licensed in the jurisdiction where they practice and employed in the U.S. or its member board jurisdictions;
2. A registered nurse (RN) for the NCLEX-RN® Exam, or a licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN) or RN for the NCLEX-PN® Exam;
3. Knowledgeable of the current scope and practice of nursing, including entry-level practice;
4. Employed as an RN or LPN/VN for at least two years; and
5. Be master's degree educated or higher in order to write NCLEX-RN items.

### Types of Panels

#### Item Writing

- Item writers create the items that are administered in the NCLEX examinations.
- Panel members must be responsible for teaching basic/undergraduate students in the clinical area.

#### Item Review

- Item reviewers examine the items that are created by the item writers.
- Panel members must be working directly with nurses who have entered nursing practice within the past 12 months.

### Panel of Judges

- The panel of judges recommends potential NCLEX passing standards to the NCSBN Board of Directors.

### How to Volunteer

Information on NCLEX® Item Development Panels and how to apply to volunteer is located online on the [How to Volunteer](#) page.

## NNAAP® & MACE® Item Development Panels

### Qualifications to Serve

*To serve on a NNAAP® or MACE® Item Development Panel, the panel member must:*

1. Be an RN in good standing with the regulatory agency/board of nursing;
2. Possess a minimum of two years of nursing experience with at least one of those years providing care in long-term care facilities;
3. Have current content expertise and experience in teaching adults;
4. Be a supervisor for nurse aides/nursing assistants (NAs) or medication aides (MAs), or an educator for facility-based NA or MA programs; and
5. Be approved by your regulatory agency/BON.

### Types of Panels

#### Item Writing

- Item writers create the items that are administered in the NNAAP or MACE examinations.

#### Item Review

- Item reviewers examine the items that are created by the item writers.

#### Job Analysis Meeting

- Experts review the existing job-related activities and required knowledge of the work performed by certified entry-level NAs and MAs.

#### Standard-Setting Meetings

- The panel of judges recommends potential NNAAP or MACE passing standards.

### How to Volunteer

Information on NNAAP & MACE Item Development panels and how to apply to volunteer is located online on the [NNAAP & MACE](#) page. ●







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