APRN/RN License Renewal and CE Requirements

APRN and RN License Renewal
Renewal of the APRN and RN license may take place up to 60 days prior to expiration. Expiration of both licenses will occur on the last day of your birth month and on an even year if born on an even year and odd year if born on an odd year. For example, for someone born on June 21, 1975, the expiration of the license would be on June 30 of odd years. The renewal process may begin approximately 60 days prior.

In Arkansas, both the RN and APRN license must be renewed and maintained. They are separate renewal processes. You must complete two (2) renewal applications (one for RN and one for APRN).

Renewals

1. The date for renewal of licensure to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse shall coincide with the renewal of the applicant’s registered nurse license.
2. An applicant for renewal of an advanced practice registered nurse license shall submit to the Board via the Arkansas Nurse Portal:
   (a) A completed Board renewal application form; (on-line renewal)
   (b) Documentation of current national certification in the appropriate APRN specialty through a maintenance program of a Board approved certifying body; http://arsbn.publishpath.com/approved-certification-agencies-exams-for-aprn-licensure
   (c) Documentation of current compact RN licensure if primary state of residence has enacted the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact; and
   (d) Payment of the nonrefundable renewal fee. (online payment)

   ASBN Rules, Chapter 4, Section III, F., 1.-2.d.

APRN and RN Continuing Education (CE) Requirements for Renewal:

a. A current national certification certificate meets CE requirements for both the RN and APRN license. A current copy should be submitted with renewal.

Prescriptive Authority

Prescriptive Authority status (if previously issued) may be considered either active, inactive, lapsed or may be terminated by the Board. It does not have to be renewed on a biennial basis although there are requirements to be met with renewal and requirements for reactivation if it has previously been deemed inactive, lapsed or terminated.

3. Advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority shall submit evidence of a current collaborative practice agreement as a prerequisite to renewal.
4. If disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against an individual with a lapsed, inactive, or retired license, the license shall not be renewed until the proceedings have been completed.

   ASBN Rules, Chapter 4, Section III, F., 3.-4.

Therefore, in order to maintain prescriptive authority, the APRN must submit to the ASBN at the time of renewal, active collaborative practice agreement(s) and quality assurance plan(s). This is a requirement even if they were recently submitted and approved.
Continuing Education Requirements

5. Continuing education (CE) submitted to the certifying body to meet the qualifications for recertification shall be accepted as meeting the statutory requirement for continuing education.

6. Upon request, an APRN shall submit documentation to the Board of continuing education.

7. APRNs with prescriptive authority shall complete five (5) contact hours of pharmacotherapeutics continuing education in the APRN’s area of certification each biennium prior to license renewal. Effective January 1, 2017, two (2) of the five (5) hours must contain information related to maintaining professional boundaries and the prescribing rules, regulations and laws that apply to APRNs in the State of Arkansas.

ASBN Rules, Chapter 4, Section III, F.5.-7.

7. APRNs issued a certificate of prescriptive authority after December 31, 2015, shall obtain a minimum of three (3) hours of prescribing education which includes information on maintaining professional boundaries and the prescribing rules, regulations and laws that apply to APRNs in the state of Arkansas within two (2) years of issuance of the prescriptive authority certificate.

ASBN Rules, Chapter 4, Section VIII, A. 7.

The long and short of it is that before your APRN license is renewed, the ASBN must receive:

a. A copy of current national certification, and
b. A copy of current active compact RN verification (if applicable).

If you hold an active prescriptive authority certificate, the ASBN must also receive:

a. A copy of current collaborative practice agreement(s) and quality assurance plan(s).

CE requirements for APRNs with active prescriptive authority:

a. Effective January 1, 2017, must complete biennially, a mandatory CE two (2) hour course relating to laws, prescribing rules, and professional boundaries.

b. Must complete an additional mandatory CE one (1) hour prescribing education course within two (2) years of PAC issuance after December 31, 2015.

c. Must complete remaining three (3) hour pharmacotherapeutic hours at an advanced level (not RN or LPN) in the area in which you are certified.

Courses that meet this requirement are located on our website (www.arsbn.org) under the advanced practice tab.

CE courses do not need to be sent to the Board unless requested.

All documentation is to be submitted via the Arkansas Nurse Portal message center; choose APRN Renewals.

Failure to submit a copy of your current collaborative practice agreement, quality assurance plan, national certification, and compact RN license (if applicable) within the required time frame may result in your APRN license expiring.