

## Nurses May Now Take NCLEX Exam in Manila & More on Nurses

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The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) selected Manila, the Philippines, as a new site for the administration of the NCLEX examinations as part of its plan to expand the number of sites where the NCLEX can be taken. At this time, there is no schedule for the first examinations but NCSBN will make the announcement soon.

Since the 1980's there is a continued nursing shortage in the U.S. and Congress has acknowledged the issue by authorizing an extension of the H-1C program for another three years. However, the H-1A program or any other program for temporary employment of foreign nationals in the Nursing profession remain unavailable at this time.

The NCLEX is required of all foreign nurses who wish to gain employment in the U.S., and who need domestic nurse licensure in U.S. states and territories.

Since January 2005, the NCLEX has been offered abroad in London, England; Seoul, South Korea; Hong Kong; Sydney, Australia; Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver, Canada; Frankfurt, Germany; Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Chennai, India; Mexico City, Mexico; Taipei, Taiwan; and Chiyoda-ku and Yokohama, Japan.

All technical inquiries about the NCLEX exam can be made directly with the NCLEX information line at: telephone: 1.866.293.9600 (domestic) or e-mail: [nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org). or telephone: +1.312.525.3750 (international). You may also go to the NCSBN Web site <http://www.ncsbn.org> for more information.

### More on Nurses:

In December of 2005, the Associate Director of Domestic Operations at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (U.S. CIS) published a memo to notify of the reauthorization of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act (NRDAA) of 1999. The H-1C program was reauthorized for another three (3) year period (expiring December 20, 2009). As before, I-129 petitions for H-1C petitions to classify foreign nurses will be adjudicated by the U.S. CIS Vermont Service Center. The H-1C program allows qualified hospitals to temporarily employ foreign nurses for three year periods for work in health professional shortage areas. That is, the foreign national must enter to perform temporary services as a Registered Nurse in a health professional shortage area as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor. There are also caps imposed on individual states. For example, States with a population of less than nine million as of 1990 may have no more than 25 H-1C visas annually and States with more than nine million may have no more than 50 H-1C visas annually. If all available visas in a fiscal year quarter are not used, the visas may be issued to states regardless of population or the state cap during the last fiscal year quarter.

The H-1A nonimmigrant classification, which provided for the temporary admission of registered nurses to the United States, expired on September 30, 1997. The H-1A program had no numerical cap, and in a representative year (1993) approximately 6,506 foreign nationals were admitted pursuant to the H-1A program. Under the H-1A program, Nurses could stay for an initial period of 3 years with extensions possible for up to a total of 5 years. Congressional efforts to amend and to extend the H-1A program for 6 months were defeated both in the Judiciary Committee and on the House floor during consideration of immigration reform legislation in the 104th Congress.

Currently there is no other program for nonimmigrant visa classification of Nurses to enter the U.S. for work temporarily.