



December 13, 2011

In re: Certified Medication Technicians
Maryland Board of Nursing
Chapter 123, 2011 Legislative Session

The Hon. Joan Carter Conway
Chairman, Senate Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Hon. Peter A. Hammen
Chairman, House Health and
Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Conway and Delegate Hammen:

The Board of Nursing submits this report on the certification of Certified Medication Technicians (CMT) in accordance with Section 2. of House Bill 378, Chapter 123, 2011 Legislative Session.

The number of CMT's that the Board certifies has continued to increase. Since 2005, the number of CMT's certified by the Board has increased by 112%. Currently the Board has 70,235 CMT's. There are approximately 2,032 pending applications.

Before Chapter 123 was enacted, the Board, on its own initiative, worked with the providers who employ CMT's to resolve outstanding certifications. Providers were asked to notify certain Board staff by e-mail if they had pending certifications for initial and renewal applications. Board staff resolved these outstanding applications as they were received and notified providers if there was something else the Board needed for initial or renewal certification. This process will be ongoing until the Board implements a new computer program that will automatically flag all applications pending for more than 30 days. Staff will then take corrective action. The Board's new licensure data base that was installed this year will be able to accommodate this kind of programming.

The Board expects to process all initial and renewal CMT applications online by the end of this fiscal year. CMT online renewal has increased from 6,823 in 2010 to 9,022 in 2011 resulting in a 32 % increase in online renewal applicants. The Board

expects the number of online renewals to triple by the end of 2012. The following chart summarizes the annual online renewals for CMT's.

CMT online renewal applications

2008	2009	2010	2011
1,621	4,667	6,823	9,022

Presently, after the Board receives all the documentation it requires for renewal applications, it takes approximately 6- 8 weeks to renew a CMT certification. After the Board's new licensure data base is fully operational it anticipates being able to renew all online applications within one week after the required documentation is submitted. New online applicants will be certified within one month.

The Board has identified some obstacles to online certification. Until recently only charge cards could be used to pay for application and renewal fees. That obstacle has been removed by a new state policy allowing the use of either a debit or credit card bearing a Master Charge or Visa logo. One of the prerequisites for CMT renewal is verification by a delegating nurse that the CMT has 100 hours of experience in the two years prior to renewal. This presents a problem for any CMT who does not have contact with their former delegating nurse. The Board is removing this requirement and replacing it with self reporting as soon as the forms can be changed by the Board's Information Technology Department (IT). After that the applicant will have to complete a statement on the application form that the information they supplied is truthful. The Board uses this procedure of self reporting for licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants and has not encountered any problems.

There is still an ongoing problem with the use of the online certification program by delegating nurses. Interfacing with the online program remains problematic for some delegating nurses. Staff report that when class lists are not filed on time the CMT's cannot renew or be certified. Sometimes they are not filed for six months instead of within 5 days of completion of a class. IT staff held several community meetings this year with providers to instruct them in the use of the online system. The community meeting program is being expanded. There will be more meetings next year.

The Board is sending out notifications to renewal applicants that they must renew online. Paper applications are no longer being mailed out with renewal notices. A computer kiosk was installed in the Board's lobby for walk-in applicants and those who do not have access to a computer. Four computers will be available by the end of the 2011 for the use of applicants. Board staff will be available to assist them.

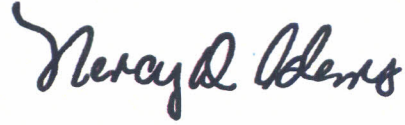
The Board has received freeze exemptions for two full time employees to work on certifying applicants.. One is being trained and the second one will be hired by the end of 2011. Adding staff alone is not the solution to certifying applicants. The Board wants to spend its funds improving the IT system to increase efficiency in licensing and certification. Staff are reviewing the certification process to see if more changes can be

made to simplify the procedure, thereby speeding up the process.

Respectfully submitted ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia A. Noble". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Patricia A. Noble, RN, MSN
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nancy Adams, RN, MBA
Board President