

The Official Publication of the Ohio Nurses Foundation

# OHIO NURSE

Quarterly publication delivered electronically to approximately 305,000 RNs and LPNs in Ohio

April 2026

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# President's Message

## Important Changes to CE Timelines

Action from nurses results in commonsense adjustment from Board



**Rick Lucas, BSN, RN, CCRN - ONF President**

On March 26, 2026, changes the Ohio Board of Nursing made to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) section [4723-14-01](#) became effective. These OAC amendments change the timelines during which nurses licensed by the Ohio Board of Nursing must earn their continuing education (CE) hours.

Under the new rule, CE hours will need to be completed *before* the license renewal period begins. Under the prior OAC language, licensed nurses could continue earning qualifying CE hours throughout the license renewal period.

Under the language of the new rule, the new timelines would go into effect immediately, essentially removing four months from the time in which LPNs, who renew their licenses in even-numbered years, could earn qualifying CE hours. But for more than three weeks after the effective date of the rule change, the Board of Nursing made no effort to inform Ohio's licensed nurses of the change.

Concerned that Ohio's LPNs would be caught off guard by the rule change, the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) began an intensive effort to notify nurses about the changes and to demand that the Board of Nursing not implement its new rule with so little notice.

ONA first posted on social media about the CE timeline changes on April 17, and Ohio's nurses jumped into action. Hundreds of nurses contacted the Board directly, and hundreds more spread the word through social media and their own professional and personal networks.

On April 20, ONA sent a letter to the Board, demanding that it take immediate action to notify all licensed nurses and that it exercise its discretion when enforcing CE requirements this year. You can read our full letter to the Board below.

On April 21, nearly a full month after the OAC amendments went into effect, the Ohio Board of Nursing finally added the first mention of the new rules to its website and posted about it on its social media accounts.

Fortunately, the Board appears to have exercised its discretion and decided to not apply the new timelines to LPNs until 2028. This is from the Board's [post](#) on its website:

The change does not affect the 2026 reporting period for LPNs. For the 2026 LPN renewal, the reporting period for continuing education remains between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2026. The new reporting period for LPNs will begin during the 2028 renewal cycle.

Thanks to the quick action of Ohio nurses, the Board of Nursing was forced to delay implementation of its new rule and finally started to make some effort to notify nurses of the change.

RNs: please plan to complete all of your required CE hours by June 30, 2027.

ONA's [CE4Nurses](#) continues to offer free and members-only on-demand CE courses. If you don't work at an ONA union facility, you can always [join ONA as an associate member](#) to receive access to our members-only CE resources.

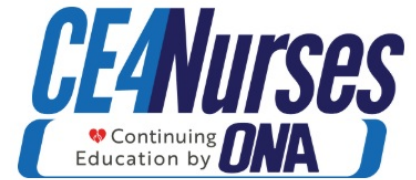
We are so grateful to all of the nurses who helped spread the word about the CE timeline changes and who called and emailed the Board of Nursing to demand that it implement the new rules in a fair and reasonable way. When we come together to demand change, we win.

Thank you, as always, for your hard work and dedication.

## Continuing Education and Licensure Considerations for Ohio Nurses 2nd Edition

1.0 Category A Contact Hour Webinar regarding OAC 4723-14 rules related to renewing Ohio license and CE requirements, including 2026 changes.

Free for ONA Members. \$18 for Non-Members.



*The Ohio Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. (OBN-001-91)*

An advertisement for WGU's RN to BSN program. On the left, the text "ONE-YEAR RN TO BSN" is prominently displayed in green and white. Below this, it lists "ONLINE COURSES", "LOW TUITION", and "MONTHLY START DATES". The WGU logo, featuring an owl, is on the bottom left, and a green button with the text "APPLY FREE" is on the bottom right. On the right side of the ad is a photograph of a smiling male nurse in blue scrubs with his arms crossed.



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## Nursing News

# Ohio Continuing Education Timeframes Changed

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# Ohio CE Cycles Have Changed

**Effective March 26, 2026**

The Ohio Board of Nursing has updated the timeframes in which continuing education (CE) may be earned for nurse license renewal. These changes are outlined in OAC 4723-14-01, referred to as "Reporting Period."

## New CE earning periods for renewal eligibility

**LPNs:** July 1 of even-numbered years through June 30 of the next even-numbered year.

**RNs:** July 1 of odd-numbered years through June 30 of the next odd-numbered year.

## Important transition information

**For LPNs renewing in 2026:** On April 21, 2026, the Ohio Board of Nursing posted on its website:

**The change does not affect the 2026 reporting period for LPNs.** For the 2026 LPN renewal, the reporting period for continuing education remains between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2026. The new reporting period for LPNs will begin during the 2028 renewal cycle.

## What this means for renewals

**For RNs renewing in 2027:** Only CE earned by June 30, 2027 may be used for renewal.

**For LPNs renewing in 2028:** Only CE earned by June 30, 2028 may be used for renewal.





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## ONA's Letter to the Ohio Board of Nursing

**April 20, 2026**

**Via Email**

**To:** President Erin Keels, DNP, APRN-CNP

**CC:** Vice-President Tiffany Knepper, RN, APRN-CNP

Member Candy Rinehart, DNP, APRN-CNP

Member Jenny Heiser, LPN

Member Shawn Livingston, LPN

Member Joseph Quackenbush, LPN

Member Teresa Remy, RN

Member Virinder Sidhu, RN, APRN-CNP

Member Scott Wesbecher, LPN

Member Barbara Wadsworth, RN

Member Gina Woods, RN

Executive Director, Marlene Anielski

### **Regulatory Changes Without Notice Are Putting Nurses at Risk**

Dear President Keels,

I am writing to raise serious concerns regarding the continuing education (CE) cycle changes to OAC 4723-14-01 that became effective March 26, 2026. As of today, April 20, 2026, many nurses across Ohio remain unaware that these changes have even taken effect. There has been no clear, proactive, or direct communication to licensees about the new continuing education timelines.

This failure is not a minor oversight—it has real consequences. For LPNs in particular, the impact is immediate and severe. Under the previous schedule, LPNs had until October 31, 2026 to complete their CE requirements. They are now expected to meet a June 30, 2026 deadline—losing four months of time with less than three months’ notice. Without direct notification from the Board, nurses are being set up to unknowingly fall out of compliance and risk their licenses.

Licensure is the foundation of a nurse’s ability to practice, earn a living, and provide care. Changes of this magnitude demand immediate, widespread communication through every available channel—email, website alerts, social media, and direct outreach. Anything less is sloppy and unacceptable.

The Board’s own administrative rule 4723-1-05 requires it to “make a reasonable effort to inform persons affected” by rule amendments. That standard has not been met. None of the licensed nurses on ONA staff have received any communication from the Board regarding these changes, and the hundreds of nurses we have spoken with across the state are similarly unaware. A review of the Board’s website and social media shows no clear notification that these new CE timelines are now in effect. The result is predictable: widespread confusion and a heightened risk of noncompliance.

This approach runs counter to the principles of a just culture. Nurses operate within systems that claim to prioritize transparency, accountability, and learning. Yet this regulatory change was rolled out in a way that feels like the opposite—quiet, unclear, and punitive in its impact. Regulation should not happen in the shadows, and licensees should not be penalized for requirements they were never properly informed of.

At a time when nurses are already working through a patient care crisis—understaffed, overextended, and too often placed in unsafe conditions—this failure of communication further jeopardizes an already fragile workforce. It sends a clear and troubling message to the very professionals the Board is charged with regulating and raises serious concerns about its commitment to protecting the patients who depend on safe, informed care.

Ohio nurses deserve clear expectations, timely communication, and a regulatory body that supports compliance rather than undermines it.

ONA has initiated an intensive outreach effort to inform our members and nurses across the state about these changes, in the absence of any attempt by the Board to do so. That responsibility rests squarely with the Board—not with a union or professional association forced to fill the gap. We are demanding immediate answers:

- What actions is the Board taking right now to directly notify all impacted licensees?
- Will the Board implement any grace period or enforcement discretion to prevent nurses from being unfairly penalized?
- How will the Board ensure this type of communication failure does not happen again?

Additionally, given the Board’s failure to provide timely and effective notice, implementation of these changes for LPNs must be delayed until the next renewal cycle to prevent nurses from being unjustly placed at risk of noncompliance and potential licensure consequences. Creating conditions where nurses could lose their licenses due to an inadequately communicated administrative change is deeply concerning and directly conflicts with the ethical standards that guide our profession. The Board must do better.

We expect a prompt response and immediate corrective action.

Sincerely,  
Rick Lucas BSN, RN, CCRN  
ONA President



**Stark State**  
COLLEGE  
**RN to BSN**

**I jumped at the chance to earn my BSN from home, on my schedule, at one of Ohio's most affordable colleges."**

*Carianne M.*



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## Nursing In The News

- [Ohio nurses, students sound alarm over federal loan rule](#)
- [Union demands action after nurse allegedly strangled by patient at Ohio hospital](#)
- [Ohio nurse association calls for transparency and accountability from university leadership at medical board meeting](#)
- [Ohio Nurses Association calls on Ohio State to remove Les Wexner's name from campus buildings](#)
- [MetroHealth behavioral health nurses demand protection from violent patients](#)

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## Resources

### Caring For Your Mental Health

In healthcare, you give so much of yourself: long hours, emotional moments, and weight that isn't always visible. Stress, exhaustion, and burnout are real, but you don't have to face them alone.

A small act can make a big difference. A quick message, a genuine check-in, or a simple "I'm here for you" can lift someone's day more than you know.

Need someone to talk to?

**Call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**, available 24/7, free, and confidential.

ONA members can also access AFT's [counseling](#) and [trauma](#) services.

Remember, caring for yourself is just as important as caring for others.

**Your wellbeing matters.**



An advertisement for Ohio State University Online nursing degree. The background is a deep red. In the top left corner is the Ohio State University logo (a white 'O' with a red outline) and the text "THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ONLINE". In the center, there is a white-bordered octagonal image showing three healthcare professionals (two women in blue scrubs and one in a white lab coat) walking through a modern hospital hallway. Below the octagonal image, the text "Earn your nursing degree online from Ohio State and rise as a leader in your field." is written in white. At the bottom left, there is a white button with the text "GET STARTED" in red.



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## "Support Nursing" Ohio License Plates

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The Ohio Nurses Foundation needs your help in our continued quest to support our profession by providing annual nursing scholarships.

How can you help? By purchasing a SUPPORT NURSING Ohio license plate. Proceeds from the license plates help fund annual scholarships.

To purchase a specialized plate, click the link below, choose Organizational Plates, and click Ohio Nurses Association.

If you already have a Support Nursing license plate, you will receive a renewal letter in the mail two months before your birthday.

**Get your plate here!**

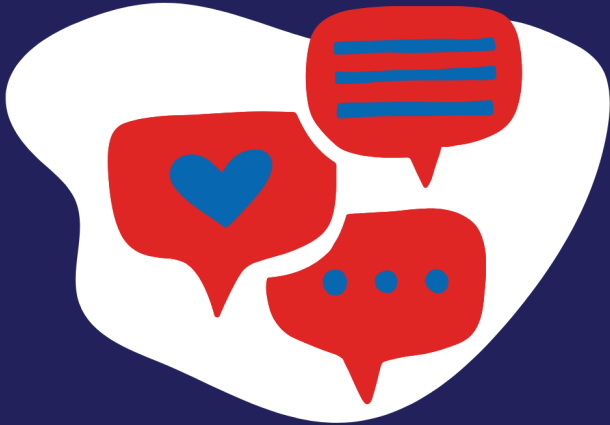
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 Columbus, Ohio 43215. Contact us today at 614-228-5800.

[Learn more](#)

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**YOU CARE FOR EVERYONE ELSE. WE CARE FOR YOU.**  
IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE. LET'S SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE TOGETHER!

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Join us.

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