

## ***Facts About Nursing Assistant Certification***

### **Who Must Be Certified**

- ▶ All individuals who routinely perform nursing tasks delegated by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse must be certified by the Board of Nursing.
- ▶ Certified nursing assistant is defined as an individual regardless of title, who routinely performs nursing tasks delegated by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse for compensation; and does not include a medication assistant or an individual who merely provides assistance with activities of daily living, unless the client's needs are such that adverse health consequences are predictable.
- ▶ Only persons certified as a nursing assistant by the Board may use the title Certified Nursing Assistant or the initials C.N.A. after their name.

### **Training Requirements**

- ▶ The Board has developed regulations outlining the nursing assistant training programs.
- ▶ The Board shall approve in conjunction with the Maryland Higher Education Commission each nursing assistant training program prior to its implementation.
- ▶ Only persons completing the approved program may be certified as a nursing assistant.

### **Applicant Completing an Out-of-State Program**

- ▶ The applicant who completed a CNA/GNA program out of state must be registered on the out-of-state nurse aide registry. The certification must be in good standing and free from any findings of patient abuse or neglect.
- ▶ The verification must come directly from the out-of-state registry or certification program directly to the Maryland CNA Certification.

### **Other Requirements**

- ▶ Individuals wanting to be certified geriatric assistants, home health nursing assistants, certified medicine aides, school health nursing assistants, developmental disabilities nursing assistants, and certified nursing assistant - dialysis technicians must meet additional requirements.
- ▶ The Board will also certify those individuals who meet the requirements of certification as a medication technician (MT). The medication technician is defined as an individual who has completed a Board approved medication technician training program and is certified by the board as a medication technician. This individual works in community based practice settings such as assisted living, group homes, etc. [Click here for more information on the Medication Technician](#) (coming soon)
- ▶ The Board will also certify those individuals who meet the requirements for certification as a Medicine Aide. Medicine Aides must have had 1 year of previous experience as a Geriatric Nursing Assistant in a Maryland-licensed nursing home, and have completed the Maryland required 60-hour state approved course in medication administration. These individuals work in the licensed nursing home.

▶ An advisory committee makes recommendations to the Board regarding:

- Education and training requirements;
- Clinical and administrative procedures; and,
- A plan for mobility of nursing assistants between various practice settings.

## **Certification Costs**

▶ Initial CNA Certification fee: \$20.00

▶ CNA Renewal fee: \$40.00 every 2 years