

North Carolina Nurses Association Information for Nurse of the Day

NCNA Staff Contact:

Kristin Visger (800.626.2153 or 919.821.4250, Ext. 10 or kristinvisger@ncnurses.org)

1. Park in front of the Legislative Building on Jones Street, Wilmington Street, Lane Street or Salisbury. Place your "Nurse of the Day" sign on the dash board of your vehicle so that it is clearly visible. If you can not find parking on the street (it will say permit only) call the Legislative Officer at 733-2159 and he will come and assist you.
2. Security will meet you at **8:45 a.m. (3:45 p.m. on Monday)** in the front lobby of the Legislative Building. If they don't give you a calendar for the day, pick one up at the left-hand reception desk.
3. Security will direct you to the Health Room (Room 1417) and will provide you with door and cabinet keys and a pager.
4. Unlock cabinets and put out blood pressure equipment and the log book.
5. Ordinarily, there will be a Doctor of the Day and a Nurse of the Day. In these instances, the nurse will obtain the patient information, vital signs, assist the doctor as needed, and be sure information is recorded. On some occasions, the provider may be a Nurse Practitioner. If there is also a nurse, the nurse's role would be the same as when there is a doctor. Rarely, is there neither a doctor nor a nurse practitioner present. If that happens, the nurse then functions within his/her own scope of practice. Remember that in this case, you may do first aid or make referrals, but you may not prescribe medications. However, you can obtain information, get vital signs, ask about allergies and what they ordinarily take if they have this problem, inform them of what is available, and let them choose treatment or medication as they wish.
6. There is a room beside the Health Room that has a place for members or legislative staff to rest if needed. It contains oxygen, a cot and an emergency lift chair. Leave this room unlocked.
7. While in the building, wear your lab coat at all times. If you don't have a lab coat, one will be provided for your use for the day.
8. When you leave the Health Room, contact Security (3-2159) and let them know where you will be, i.e., the Senate, the House, or a committee meeting. Carry your pager. Also, leave a note on the door stating where you can be located. If paged, return to the Health Room immediately.
9. **Leave keys and pager with Security** at the end of the day.

Normally, when you are there, Joanne Stevens, Director of Government Relations, is there and always at hand. However, if for some reason this is not the case, you may reach the NCNA office by dialing 9-821-4250 (ask for Kristin Visger).

Emergency Numbers

EMS*	9-911	(available within 3 to 5 minutes)
Security Office	3-2159	
Rex Hospital	9-784-3100	
Duke Raleigh Hospital	9-954-3000	
Wake Medical Center	9-350-8000	
N.C. Nurses Association	9-821-4250	

*If you need to call 911, also call Security at 3-2159 so that they can facilitate.

Who Are You Likely to See?

Legislators:

The Doctor/Nurse Practitioner of the Day can prescribe medication in dosages up to 72 hours to allow legislators an opportunity to see or contact their private physician. Except in emergencies, they should prescribe only to legislators. NOTE: In the bottom drawer of the file cabinet, there should be an index card for each legislator and, in some cases, their staff. These cards have his/her basic health information. Please update as needed.

Legislative Staff:

The majority of legislative staff members live nearby. An assessment should be made of any problem presented and, if possible, referred to their local physician or the Wake County Referral Service at 821-2227. For out of town staff, use your best judgement.

Visitors:

Emergency or urgent care - handle appropriately or refer to hospital emergency room. Non-emergency cases - instruct visitor to contact his/her physician by telephone or immediately upon returning home.

Protocol for Dispensing Medicine in Aid Station

If the Doctor/Nurse Practitioner of the Day dispenses medication from the supply in the Aid Station, make sure to follow this protocol:

1. Record all information on the log as indicated under the headings: name of person seen, provider, symptoms or problem, and treatment.
2. Record the name of the drug, strength and amount prescribed. **Prescription(s) should be limited to 72 hours.** Legislators may check in with the Doctor/Nurse Practitioner of the Day the following day if necessary to continue their prescription.
3. Except in emergencies, the Doctor/Nurse Practitioner of the Day should only provide prescription medicines from stock to legislators.
4. Prescriptions for controlled substances are limited to extreme emergencies. All other requests for controlled substances should be referred to family physicians or appropriate local resources.
5. When dispensing over-the-counter medications, record the name of the person receiving the medication; his/her symptoms; and the name, strength and amount of the drug dispensed. Limit to 24 hour supply.
6. The Doctor/Nurse Practitioner of the Day is instructed to bring his/her own personal kit, personalized prescription forms and any other personal equipment they might desire to have available.

Frequently Asked Questions

When serving as Nurse of the Day, what is the role of the nurse?

The role of the nurse is just that, a nurse. This is a valuable service to members of the General Assembly and the legislative staff. Many of our members who have already served as Nurse of the Day have expressed that the experience has validated their choice of the nursing profession. These nurses have certainly enhanced the positive image of nursing.

Should the Nurse of the Day serve in a lobbyist's role?

The answer **MUST** be NO. By all means, if asked, give an honest response to any questions asked by legislators. But remember, while you are serving in this role, you are representing nursing as a whole. If you find yourself in a situation where you need to answer a debatable question, make it known that the response is your personal opinion. If for some reason you are asked to speak at a Committee hearing, it is appropriate to simply state that you are not prepared to speak on the issue.

When the Nurse of the Day is NOT treating patients. . .

You are free to attend committee meetings, sit in on the deliberations in the House of Representatives and the Senate and/or go to the cafeteria. In fact, one of the highlights of the day is when the Nurse and Doctor of the Day are introduced on the floor of each house. Legislators rise to acknowledge these health care professionals who are voluntarily serving members of the General Assembly. You will then be able to remain on the floor and watch the legislature in action.

What is the general schedule for Nurse of the Day?

The legislative week begins at 4:00 p.m. on Monday and runs through Thursday afternoon. Therefore, a nurse is needed from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday evenings and from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. You should arrive fifteen minutes early and go to the lobby of the Legislative Building to be escorted to the Health Room (1417) by Security personnel.

Press Release Information For NCNA Members Only

Please complete the following information and fax (919.829.5807) or mail (Kristin Visger, NCNA, PO Box 12025, Raleigh, NC 27605) it to the NCNA office. NCNA will send a press release to your local newspaper(s) to let them know of your valuable service to the North Carolina General Assembly.

Name _____ Credentials _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Employer _____

Employer's City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Position held _____

How long employed _____

In 20 words, or less, state why you decided to serve as Nurse of the Day:

Please list the newspaper(s) that you would like this information released to:
Name of Newspaper Address

Press releases will be mailed the week that you serve as Nurse of the Day.
NCNA cannot guarantee that your newspaper(s) will use this information.

Directions to the Legislative Building in Raleigh, NC

FROM West/Northwest I-40 US 70

I-40: Take exit 289 onto the Raleigh Chapel Hill Expressway. This becomes Wade Avenue. As Wade Avenue ends, exit right onto Capital Boulevard South towards downtown. After Capital Boulevard becomes Dawson Street, turn left on Jones Street. The Legislative Building is located 2 blocks away on the left. To get to the Legislative Office Building (LOB), turn left after passing the Legislative Building and take your next left. The LOB will be in the second building on the right.

US 70: US 70 changes to Glenwood Avenue. Stay on Glenwood to Wade Avenue. Cross the overpass and exit on Wade Avenue East. As Wade Avenue ends, exit right onto Capital Boulevard South towards downtown. Take the exit onto Lane Street and turn left. Turn right on North Salisbury Street. The Legislative Office Building and the Legislative Building are located on the left side of the road.

Parking: Pass the Legislative Building and turn left on North Wilmington. Merge left at the end of the block and you will essentially turn around onto North Salisbury Street. The Legislative Office Building and the Legislative Building are located on the left side of the road.

FROM Northeast US 64 US 1 and US 401

US 64: Continue on New Bern Avenue (inbound New Bern Avenue changes to Edenton Street) to the intersection of Edenton and North Wilmington. Turn right onto North Wilmington Street. Turn left at the second traffic signal onto Lane Street. The Legislative Office Building will be on your right, the Legislative Office Building will be on your left.

US 1 and US 401: Continue on Capital Boulevard to Lane Street, but merge into the left lane as you get closer to downtown. (Capital Boulevard becomes Dawson Street.) After Capital Boulevard changes to Dawson Street, turn left on Jones Street. The Legislative Building is located 2 blocks away on the left. To get to the Legislative Office Building (LOB), turn left after passing the Legislative Building and take your next left. The LOB is in the second building on the right.

Parking: At the intersection of Lane Street and North Wilmington Street turn left. Merge left at the end of the block and you will essentially turn around onto North Salisbury Street. The Legislative Office Building and the Legislative Building are located on the left side of the road.

FROM East/ Southeast I-40 US 70 US 70

US 70 merges into US 401. Continue north and stay right on South Wilmington Street. You will pass the State Capital Building on your left. The Legislative Building is located 2 blocks away on the left. To get to the Legislative Office Building (LOB), turn left after passing the Legislative Building and take your next left. The LOB is in the second building on the right.

I-40: Exit I-440 West. Proceed to the South Saunders Street exit and exit right. Travel north on South Saunders Street, which changes to McDowell Street. Get in the left lane and continue on McDowell to Jones Street. Turn right on Jones Street. The Legislative Building is located 1 block away on the left. To get to the Legislative Office Building (LOB), turn left after passing the Legislative Building and take your next left. The LOB is in the second building on the right.

Parking: Pass the Legislative Building and turn left on North Wilmington. Merge left at the end of the block and you will essentially turn around onto North Salisbury Street. The Legislative Office Building and the Legislative Building are located on the left side of the road.

FROM South/ Southwest US 1 and US 64/US 401 US 1 and US 64

Exit onto I-440 East and proceed to South Saunders Street. Exit at South Saunders Street and go north on South Saunders Street, which later changes to McDowell Street. Get in the left lane and continue on McDowell to Jones Street. Turn right on Jones Street. The Legislative Building is located 1 block away on the left. To get to the Legislative Office Building (LOB), turn left after passing the Legislative Building and take your next left. The LOB is in the second building on the right.

US 401: Continue north and stay right on South Wilmington Street. You will pass the State Capital Building on your left. The Legislative Building is located 2 blocks away on the left. To get to the Legislative Office Building (LOB), turn left after passing the Legislative Building and take your next left. The LOB is in the second building on the right.

Parking: Pass the Legislative Building and turn left on North Wilmington. Merge left at the end of the block and you will essentially turn around onto North Salisbury Street. The Legislative Office Building and the Legislative Building are located on the left side of the road.