

## Colorado Board of Nursing now requires English Language Proficiency Report

The Colorado Board of Nursing now requires the CGFNS English Language Proficiency Report to accompany the CES Healthcare Profession & Science Report for all RN and LPN applicants applying for licensure by exam. The new requirement takes effect 1 July 2008 and applies to all NEW applications received on and after that date. Anyone who has already applied for CES for Colorado PRIOR to 1 July 2008 is not required to have the English Language Proficiency Report.

The Colorado Board of Nursing now requires proof that the applicant has achieved a passing score on the English Proficiency examinations required by the Department of Homeland Security



for certification of health care workers in section 343 of the Illegal Immigration Reform Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. The Board will accept the same exams and minimum passing scores required for *VisaScreen*®.

After 1 July 2008, applicants who want to be licensed by the Colorado Board of Nursing will need to apply for the CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Service Healthcare Profession & Science Report PLUS the CGFNS Language Proficiency Report: English and pay \$403 for this service (\$328 for the Healthcare Profession & Science Report; and \$75 for the CGFNS Language Proficiency Report: English).

### CGFNS International

## Call Center hours to change

In order to better serve our international customers, beginning July 14, 2008, the CGFNS Call Center hours of operation will change from the current hours of operation: **Monday through Thursday 9am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 4:30pm (US Eastern time)**, to the following hours of operation: **Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm (US Eastern time)**.

The telephone number for the call center is +1 (215) 349 8767.

The automated telephone system remains open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That telephone number is +1 (215) 599 6200. Applicants require their CGFNS ID number and their birth date to check their status.



Six Exam Centers will be open

## Deadline extended for September CP Qualifying Exam

The following exam test centers will be OPEN for the September 17, 2008 CP Qualifying Exam:

United States	New York
Philippines	Manila and Cebu
India	Cochin
Jamaica	Kingston
Nigeria	Abuja
Russian Federation	Moscow

## CVS clarification for applicants educated in Puerto Rico



Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists, and Occupational Therapy Assistants who completed their **entire** professional education in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico and who wish to practice in the state of New York are **not** required to go through the CGFNS Credential Verification Service for New York State.

**If you were educated in Puerto Rico and are looking to practice in the state of New York, please apply directly to the New York State Education Department.**

Other state boards of nursing may have different procedures for graduates from U.S. territories. Please check with the state board in the state you intend to practice before applying to CGFNS.



## Washington Board of Nursing now requires CES Full Education Course-by-Course Report



Effective 12 June 2008, the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (ie, Board of Nursing) will begin requiring the CES Full Education Course-by-Course Report for RNs and LPNs **applying for licensure by exam**. Applicants **applying for endorsement** may have copies of transcripts or a CES Report forwarded to the Board.

Washington State will continue to accept the Certification Program (CP) certificate for RNs applying for licensure by exam or endorsement.



## New pricing for VisaScreen® renewal service



CGFNS International has announced new pricing for its *VisaScreen*® Renewal Service, administered by the International Commission on Healthcare Professions (ICHP), a division of CGFNS International. Effective 1 July 2008, CGFNS/ICHP will charge \$250 for each *VisaScreen*® Renewal Service.

The *VisaScreen*® Certificate is valid for five years. *VisaScreen*® Certificate holders who have not adjusted their status or obtained a permanent United States visa are required to renew their *VisaScreen*® Certificates within five years of the date it was issued.

*VisaScreen*® is the CGFNS/ICHP trademark term for the federally-mandated non-U.S. citizen healthcare worker certification program for U.S. immigration and occupational visas. The professionals requiring certification under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), Section 343 are audiologists, medical technicians, medical technologists, occupational therapists, physician assistants, physical therapists, practical nurses, registered nurses and speech-language pathologists.

## CGFNS International does not accredit nursing schools

CGFNS International provides credentials evaluation services to promote the health and safety of the public. This includes verifying that applicants have attended a government-approved school. CGFNS relies on official governmental entities in the countries where the education and training were completed to determine whether or not a school is approved.

**Please be advised that CGFNS International does not accredit or approve nursing schools.** Any implication that an educational or training program is "approved" by CGFNS International is inaccurate, misleading and subject to possible sanction. To date, action has been taken against a number of entities that have falsely claimed to be accredited, approved or associated with CGFNS International.

*VisaScreen® Certificate holders:*

# Check the expiration date!

The *VisaScreen®* Certificate is valid for five years. *VisaScreen®* Certificate holders who have not adjusted their status or obtained a permanent United States visa are required to renew their *VisaScreen®* Certificates within five years of the date it was issued. *VisaScreen®* Certificates that were issued in 2003 will expire in 2008.

## **VisaScreen® Renewal Program requirements**

*VisaScreen®* Certificate holders must reapply to CGFNS/ICHP and obtain a new Certificate prior to the expiration date of the current *VisaScreen®* Certificate. Applicants should begin the renewal process six months before the expiration of their current *VisaScreen®* Certificate.

To renew your *VisaScreen®* Certificate, you will need:

1. To complete and sign a *VisaScreen®*: Visa Credentials Assessment Renewal Form (available through CGFNS connect or download at [www.cgfns.org](http://www.cgfns.org)).
2. A bank check or international money order (drawn on a U.S. bank in U.S. funds) made payable to ICHP, or credit card payment (Visa, MasterCard or Discover), for the full *VisaScreen®* renewal application fee in U.S. dollars. DO NOT SEND CASH.
3. The completed "Request for Validation of Registration/License" form from each licensing agency where you have ever held a registration/license/certification as a

## **Want to prevent having to retake the English Language Proficiency exam?**

Plan accordingly. English Language Proficiency test scores are valid for two years. This two-year time frame must coincide with the receipt of all required documents, otherwise the scores will expire and applicants will need to retake the required English Language Proficiency exams.

**Please note:** We have noticed a number of applicants applying for our services with English scores that are about to expire, and that doesn't allow CGFNS sufficient time to receive the remaining required documents before the scores expire. Unfortunately, this means that the *VisaScreen®* Certificate cannot be issued because the applicant must retake the required English exams.



professional in your field; or, in cases where your diploma authorizes legal practice, this same form mailed to CGFNS/ICHP from the institution that issued your diploma. If you hold a lifetime license or certificate to practice, you still must have a validation completed to document that there were no suspensions, revocations or restrictions on your practice since the initial validation was received by CGFNS/ICHP. **Note:** Some licensing/registration authorities may charge a fee for verifying your license(s)/registration(s). You are responsible for any additional fees associated with processing your *VisaScreen®* application.

4. Proof of English proficiency through examination (scores are valid for two years) or by exemption as designated in the *VisaScreen®* handbook.
5. Certified English translation of all documents not in English. **Note:** CGFNS/ICHP is unable to accept any transcript or licensure documentation sent by email, fax or via the Internet. All official documentation must be in hard copy format with the appropriate seals and sent to CGFNS/ICHP by mail or courier.