

MSDH Office of Licensure and Certification
Pandemic Nurse Aide /Temporary Nurse Aide (TNA)
BRIDGE to Certification (CNA)– MAY 2022
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):

1. When will the Pandemic Nurse Aide or Temporary Nurse Aide (TNA) Blanket Waiver end? **According to QSO-22-15-NH issued by CMS, The Pandemic waiver for Nurse Aides will cease as of June 7, 2022, and all Nurse Aides who were working in that capacity will have 4 months to “Bridge” to a Certified Nurse Aide Status to be able to continue to work in Certified Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities by October 7, 2022.**

2. What Credit is being given to Temporary Nurse Aides who completed the temporary Nurse Aide course? **Eight hours (8)** has been given for the free abbreviated course which has been offered by American Health Care Association (AHCA), and National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL). **Forty Hours (40)** has been given for the skills check off portion, which is included on the MSDH website, and needs to be signed off on by a Registered Nurse who has observed the TNA performing the skill. Temporary Nurse Aides have been allowed to perform duties after they have been observed to show **competence** in performing the assigned duty. The **remaining 27 hours** will be classroom time.

3. In addition to the 40 hours of skills check off, what **additional training/curriculum** is required for these temporary NAs to complete the Bridge training? **The curriculum needs to include 27 hours of classroom training in the areas defined at 42 CFR §483.152(b), such as respecting resident rights, basic nursing skills, personal care skills, and caring for cognitively impaired residents. The same new hire orientation on Abuse/Neglect/Misappropriation/Vulnerable Adults Act would also be required.**

4. Who may provide the 27 hours of classroom **training**? For purposes of the TNA BRIDGE to CNA – the instructor may be an LPN, or RN working in the same facility as the Temporary Nurse Aides, who has some experience in teaching adults. Training may continue until October 7th, 2022, at which time the TNA to CNA Bridge program will be closed.

5. What **testing** is additionally required of these pandemic Temporary Nurse Aides (TNA's) to Bridge successfully to Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Status? [The requirements at 42 CFR §483.154(b)(i) and (ii) requires these nurse aides pass a written or oral exam, and demonstrate skills learned.] It is required that TNA's take a 2-part test offered by Credentia, the contract company which is used by the State of Mississippi. They must perform successfully 1) a written or oral test, and 2) skills check off to be eligible for Certification in the State of MS.

6. Who is keeping track of this special group of applicants (TNA'S hired during the Pandemic Waiver – March 2020 – June 2022)? The facility has been required to send a list of any Temporary Nurse Aide (TNA) hired under this Waiver program weekly, to the MS State Dept. of Health CNA Coordinator, Antanikah Robbins at Antanikah.Robbins@msdh.ms.gov. If the TNA has **completed a training program**, and is now ready to test with Credentia, then they should contact Credentia at the Credentia.com website. They should follow the instructions for the **TNA testing application**, and submit the required documentation to include:

- ~Temporary Certificate of completion of the 8-hour On-line Course.
- ~Skills check off signed by a facility RN (provided on MSDH Website).
- ~Copy of Certificate of Completion of Bridge Program 27 hours of classroom Instruction. (Facility creates Certificate).

~Attestation signed by Facility DON on facility letterhead that the TNA has completed all steps to sit for examination. Credentia will send the State CNA Coordinator all documents received for her review. If all are in order, then she will approve Credentia to notify the TNA that they are ready to test and can schedule a testing time.

7. What background screening are you requiring of them? The State Department of Health is still performing screens on any fingerprints submitted. Applicants can send or bring in cards or go by local health Departments to get electronic fingerprinting done. The applicants cannot have any actions already listed on any CNA Registry.

8. We have NA's working in our facility who have gone through our facility CNA course but cannot get a test date through Credentia at this time. May they continue to work past October 7, 2022? Yes, CMS and MSDH can maintain some flexibility for certain requirements such as making temporary waivers available for nurse aides' certification if there are documented capacity issues in training or testing programs, and CMS will retain the ability until the expiration or termination of the national COVID-19 PHE to issue individual state-based, county-based, or facility-based waivers as needed. you must show documentation that the TNA's have applied for a test date with Credentia, and are in process, until such time as they can receive next available testing by Credentia.

9. Can applications be submitted for Feeding Assistants during this time? Contact Antanikah Robbins at Antanikah.robbins@msdh.ms.gov or 601-364-2718 for an application.

10. We lost our CNA Training program in the last 2 years because of an Immediate Jeopardy. Can we restart our CNA Training program? This may be considered if the Immediate Jeopardy was not related to CNA care, or nursing care. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the State Dept. Of Health. You may contact the Director of the Enforcement unit with the Long-Term Care Division and request a review.