

# Protecting California's Healthcare Consumers



**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING  
AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**



## **WHAT IS THE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS?**

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) is a State agency within the Department of Consumer Affairs that licenses and regulates vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians in California. BVNPT is responsible for implementation and enforcement of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and Psychiatric Technicians Law, which details the functions of the Board and establishes an 11-member board to serve as the BVNPT decision-making body.

## WHO SERVES ON THE BOARD?

The Board is composed of 11 members with a public member majority (six public members and five professional members). The Governor appoints nine members. The Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint one public member. Each member serves a four-year term and can be reappointed, but cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

The mission of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians is to protect the health and safety of consumers by promoting quality vocational nursing and psychiatric technician care in California.

### To accomplish this, we:

- Establish and uphold competency standards, provide guidance and interpretation, prevent patient harm, and intervene with discipline and rehabilitation.
- Serve the public in a customer-oriented, well-managed, and respectful manner.
- Provide employees with the opportunity for satisfying work in an atmosphere of shared commitment.

## WHO DOES BVNPT LICENSE AND REGULATE?

There are more than 130,000 vocational nurses (VN) and more than 15,000 psychiatric technicians (PT) in California providing healthcare services in a variety of settings and specialties.

### VNs practice in multiple settings, including:

- Skilled Nursing or Long Term Care Facilities
- Home Health Care Services
- General Medical and Surgical (Acute Care) Hospitals
- Outpatient (Ambulatory) Care Clinics
- Physicians' Offices
- Correctional Facilities
- Employment Services
- Community Care Facilities for the Elderly
- Residential Mental Health Facilities
- Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals
- Elementary and Secondary Schools

## **PTs practice in multiple settings, including:**

- Hospitals: State, Local, and Private
- Outpatient Mental Health Care Centers
- Residential Care Facilities
- Offices of Mental Health Practitioners
- Correctional Facilities
- Psychiatric Emergency Assessment and Treatment Teams
- Public and Private Chemical Dependency Treatment Centers
- Sheltered Workshops and Vocational Training Centers
- Respite Care Teams
- Group Counseling Services



## WHAT DOES THE BOARD DO TO PROTECT CONSUMERS?

- Sets educational standards for nursing programs that prepare students to become licensed as vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians.
- Approves California nursing programs. Approximately 183 vocational nursing and 16 psychiatric technician programs have been approved because they meet BVNPT educational standards.
- Evaluates licensure applications. To be licensed, the applicant must complete the educational requirements, pass the national licensing exam, and clear a criminal background check.
- Issues and renews licenses. The VN/PT license must be renewed every two years.
- Takes disciplinary action. Grounds for discipline focus on behaviors that place patients at risk of harm. The disciplinary action depends on the nature and severity of the violation and what is necessary to protect the public. The disciplinary action becomes a part of the VN/PT's file and is accessible to the public.
- Offers 24-hour online license look-up verification at **[www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov)**. Access our website to find out if a person is licensed as a VN/PT; if the license is active, inactive, or lapsed; and if there is any disciplinary action against the license. If you need further assistance, call BVNPT at (916) 263-7800 during regular business hours for assistance.

## WHAT CONSUMERS CAN DO

Healthcare consumers can help protect themselves and the public by reporting to BVNPT suspected violations of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act and Psychiatric Technician Law, such as vocational nurses or psychiatric technicians practicing in an unsafe or unprofessional manner, unlicensed persons illegally providing nursing or psychiatric technician care, and any issues that affect the education and practice of California VN/PTs.

If you have a complaint about other healthcare professionals licensed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, go online to [www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov) or call (800) 952-5210 for assistance.





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