

USCDI Submission 294 - Provider Identifier - NCSBN ID

[healthit.gov/isa/node/5956/submission-view](https://www.healthit.gov/isa/node/5956/submission-view)

Submitted By: Joyce Sensmeier / Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science Initiative Policy and Advocacy Workgroup

Data Element Information

Data Class Care Team Member(s)

Data Element Name Provider Identifier - NCSBN ID

Description The National Council of State Boards of Nursing ID (NCSBN ID) is a free, unique identifier publicly available and automatically generated and maintained for an individual nurse. Each NCSBN ID is available in the Nursys database. Nursys comprises a suite of systems and databases containing nurse license and license discipline information by leveraging the identifier data provided by state licensure boards of nursing in the U.S. and its territories. To assure data security, NCSBN maintains proper data security policies, procedures and requirements, and performs assessments, audits, penetration tests and vulnerability scans. A unique identifier (ID) is a distinctive, defined code, or series of characters, that classifies an entity in computer systems, including repositories, registries, data, and knowledge bases. In nursing, an ID is a code that represents the individual nurse and enables identifiable and actionable events in disparate healthcare technology systems.

Current Status Submitted

Current Classification Level N/A

Use Case Description(s)

As healthcare transitions to a value-based reimbursement model, nursing documentation in the electronic health record (EHR), enterprise resource planning (ERP), and other health IT systems becomes increasingly important. Nursing documentation can be used to capture social determinants of health data, as well as to measure improvements in individual and population health outcomes, patient safety, operational efficiency and clinical effectiveness. However, today, nursing's contribution to the health and care of individuals and communities is difficult to measure and often invisible. This lack of visibility is due, in part, to the absence of a unique identifier for nurses. Hospitals and health systems need the ability to uniquely identify nurses in the EHR, ERP, and other health IT systems for documentation, education, research and training purposes. Use of the NCSBN ID as a unique numeric identifier for individual nurses within the EHR is instrumental to the aggregation, synthesis and publication of data and research demonstrating the value and contributions of nursing to better health outcomes. The widespread use of a unique nurse identifier would enable measurement of the impact of nursing practice, including nurses' role in contributing to safe and effective health and care practices and enhancing enterprise resource planning. Leveraging a unique nurse identifier will enable scientific inquiry whereby researchers can measure and quantify nursing care and its impact on health outcomes. The appropriate use of nursing resources can also be informed by using a unique nurse identifier to examine the variability of direct nursing care time and costs per patient and the relationships between patient and nurse characteristics and nursing costs. The Alliance for Nursing Informatics is collaborating with the Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science Initiative Policy and Advocacy Workgroup and other key stakeholders to advocate for use of the NCSBN ID maintained and supported by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as the unique nurse identifier. This policy recommendation states that:

The NCSBN ID should be used by key stakeholders as a nurse identifier to help demonstrate the value of nursing through research, and enhance individual care and health outcomes via more comprehensive documentation in the EHR, ERP, and other health IT systems.

Use Case Description

Estimated number of stakeholders capturing, accessing using or exchanging All licensed RN's and LPN's which totals more than 4,000,000 providers. All hospitals (>7,000), outpatient clinics (>1,200), and long term care settings. (> 28,000).

Link to use case project page <https://www.allianceni.org/sites/allianceni.org/files/Proof%20of%20concept%20Nurse%20Unique%20Identifier%20Jan%202021.pdf>

Supporting Attachments Demonstrating the Value of Nursing Care Through Use of a Unique Nurse Identifier.pdf

This document created by Joyce Sensmeier is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share Alike 4.0 International License in January, 2020. To view a summary of the license, go to <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/legalcode>

- Improving patient experience of care (quality and/or satisfaction)
- Improving the health of populations
- Reducing the cost of care
- Improving provider experience of care

Healthcare Aims

Maturity of Use and Technical Specifications for Data Element

Applicable Standard(s)	<p>National Council of State Boards of Nursing ID (NCSBN ID) The NCSBN ID is a free, unique identifier publicly available and automatically generated and maintained for an individual nurse. Each NCSBN ID is available in the Nursys database. Nursys comprises a suite of systems and databases containing nurse license and license discipline information by leveraging the identifier data provided by state licensure boards of nursing in the U.S. and its territories. https://www.nursys.com/LQC/LQCSearch.aspx</p>
Additional Specifications	<p>There is an API available to consume the NCSBN ID. 1.3 Application Programming Interface (API) Nursys e-Notify offers an application programming interface (API) so institutions can manage and review their Nursys e-Notify nurses lists using system-to-system processes. Nursys e-Notify exposes various methods via SOAP-based web services for adding, updating, and removing nurses. There are also methods for retrieving extended license information for enrolled nurses. 1.3.1 NCSBN ID Organizations looking to use the API to consume the NCSBN ID for each nurse can use the API to enroll a license to their Nursys e-Notify Nurse List (Manage Nurse List methods) and then use the Submit Nurse Lookup/Retrieve Nurse Lookup methods to consume the NCSBN ID for that enrolled licensee. 1.4 Support information Please contact Nursys e-Notify customer service at nursysenotify@ncsbn.org or fill out our online form at https://www.nursys.com/ with any questions about Nursys e-Notify. Please refer to the API troubleshooting guide in the appendix before contacting Nursys e-Notify support.</p>
Current Use	Extensively used in production environments
Supporting Artifacts	<p>49 states currently use the NCSBN ID as the unique identifier for nurses. https://www.nursys.com/LQC/LQCJurisdictions.aspx ANI Unique Nurse Identifier Policy Statement FINAL4 Approved 071620.pdf</p>
Number of organizations/individuals with which this data element has been electronically exchanged	5 or more. This data element has been tested at scale between multiple different production environments to support the majority of anticipated stakeholders.
Supporting Artifacts	<p>The NCSBN ID is being used in 49 states for nurse licensure verification by hospitals, health systems, as well as by other employers. Nurses also access the ID to verify their own state licensure(s) and expiration dates. https://www.nursys.com/LQC/LQCJurisdictions.aspx</p>
Potential Challenges	
Restrictions on Standardization (e.g. proprietary code)	None. The NCSBN ID is a free, unique identifier publicly available and automatically generated and maintained for an individual nurse.
Restrictions on Use (e.g. licensing, user fees)	None. The NCSBN ID is a free, unique identifier publicly available and automatically generated and maintained for an individual nurse.
Privacy and Security Concerns	None. The NCSBN ID is a free, unique identifier publicly available and automatically generated and maintained for an individual nurse.
Estimate of Overall Burden	Moderate impact. The NCSBN ID is available for every RN and LPN and currently in use in many hospitals in the U.S. today. It could easily be added to relevant health IT systems through the API specification to further enable interoperability.
Other Implementation Challenges	None at this time.