

## **Intervention Project for Nurses (IPN) – Fact Sheet**

1. The Intervention Project for Nurses (IPN) functions under a service Contract with the Department of Health and provides monitoring for nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). IPN was established in 1983 through state legislation.
2. IPN protects the public and assists nurses via evidenced-based practice (policies and procedures) approved annually by the Department of Health.
3. Nurses are more likely to identify and report colleagues with signs of impairment earlier if they know that the nurse in question may have an opportunity to obtain help while also safe guarding his/her license.
4. IPN assures public safety and safety to practice by requiring nurses and CNAs to complete formal evaluations by DOH/IPN approved physicians, successfully complete recommended treatment, provide random negative toxicology screens and have their practice monitored at the workplace by a worksite monitor.
5. Participants are monitored under Monitoring Agreements.
6. Random toxicology screening is required through daily computer/call in and the use of nationally certified laboratories.
7. IPN receives regular updates from all treating providers and employers, and participants must document attendance at weekly facilitated nurse support groups.
8. Participants in IPN are monitored by Case Managers with expertise in substance use disorders and psychiatric illness.
9. IPN is audited through the Department of Health (DOH) for adherence with DOH Performance Measures, program policies, and must comply with state and federal regulations.
10. Research completed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) demonstrates that IPN and similar state programs retain nurses in the profession at a greater rate than discipline alone, and nurses who relapse are identified more quickly.
11. Retaining nurses and CNAs in a time of a growing nursing shortage makes both financial and ethical sense for the public, the nursing profession and the healthcare industry of Florida.
12. IPN is viewed as a national model by NCSBN and other national nursing associations and is sought as a resource by other states for assistance with program development and refinement.

For more information, call 1(800) 840-2720 or visit our website at [www.ipnfl.org](http://www.ipnfl.org)