

Office of Inspector General Investigation Regarding Fake Nursing Degrees

Purpose of this communication:

- To share information about an Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation regarding fake nursing degrees and remind providers of their obligation to ensure that all clinical staff maintains appropriate clinical licensure.

What do I need to know?

- The OIG is conducting a multi-state law enforcement action named Project Nightingale focused on certain south Florida nursing schools that issued in excess of 7,600 fake nursing degrees that enabled individuals to take nursing board exams and, in some instances, obtain a nursing license. For more information, go to the following link: <https://oig.hhs.gov/newsroom/media-materials/nightingale/>
- Affected nursing schools include but are not limited to the following:
 - Carleen Health Institute of South Florida, West Palm Beach
 - Med-Life Institute, Lauderdale Lakes
 - Myrielle School of Nursing, Palm Springs
 - Nursing Bridges Institute, Pensacola
 - Palm Beach International College, Lake Worth
 - Suncoast College of Health, Bradenton
 - Techni-Pro Institute, LLC, Boca Raton
- Under your contract with CareCentrix, all clinical staff are required to maintain appropriate clinical licensure.

What do I need to do?

- Please immediately review the licenses of all nursing staff to identify if any staff obtained a degree from one of the impacted institutions. If any nurse obtained a fake degree, ensure that such staff do not provide services to patients under your CareCentrix provider contract.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and continued partnership.