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A Newsletter for NYSNA Approved Provider Units

July 2009

NYSNA and ANCC Updates

We will be offering live webinars to update the Approved Provider Units of the new criteria. The dates are:

- **Friday, August 14 from 11:00 am – 12:00 noon**
(*Approved Provider Unit Operations*)
- **Tuesday, August 18 from 11:00 am – 12:00 noon**
(*Approved Provider Unit Educational Activities*)

You will receive an e-mail invitation that includes the link to the webinar. You will need a telephone and a computer with internet access. Recorded webinars containing the same information will be available within a week after the live sessions.

Please review the revised Annual Report form and Approved Provider Unit application on our webpage (<http://www.nysna.org/ce/approval.html>) to become familiar with the changes. You might find the Operational Requirements Attestation form to be a helpful summary of the Approved Provider Unit's responsibilities. Approved Provider Units will be responsible for adhering to the updates by **January 1, 2010**.

NYSNA Revisions

The NYSNA *Guide to Approval of Continuing Nursing Education Activities* will undergo revisions at the end of August so that it reflects the updated criteria and includes examples that are on the revised forms.

Best Practice-A Question for You

From another Approved Provider Unit regarding record-keeping practices:

For recurrent offerings of an activity, we add sequential numbers to the end of our Provider Unit approval code. At the end of our three-year approval period, our Provider Unit approval code is going to change when our Approved Provider status is renewed. Since the approval code is an inherent part of our identification for the recurring activity, what is the best way to identify and track this activity, now that the Provider approval code will be changing?

Please share your ideas for this Provider Unit. E-mail to Education@nysna.org and use the subject line "July Best Practice." Thank you in advance, for your participation.

FAQs

Q: *Can non-RNs receive a contact hour Certificate at the completion of a continuing nursing education activity?*

A: Yes. Anyone that attends and meets the criteria for successful completion may receive the Certificate of Completion/Attendance that includes contact hours. It is the determination of their specialty organization(s) as to whether the continuing nursing education contact hours are relevant.

Comments from the Council

Mintie Indar-Maraj, Member, Council on Continuing Education

What is continuing nursing education?

According to the American Nurses Association (ANA), continuing nursing education is defined as "systematic professional learning experience designed to augment the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of nurses and therefore, enrich the nurses contribution to quality health care and their pursuit of professional career goals" (Scope and Standards of Practice for Nursing Professional Development, 2000, p.24). Nurses in non-academic settings engage in continuing nursing education and staff development activities. Staff development consists of in-service and orientation programs.

Continuing Nursing Education & Staff Development

These two activities differ in their purposes. While continuing nursing education activities add to what nurses already know, the knowledge, skills, and attitudes learned are transferrable to other job settings. In contrast, staff development activities (orientation and in-services) are typically job related. It is specifically related to the participants' roles which are described in the facility's policies and procedures, utilization of equipment, and resources. Orientation programs are mostly facility specific and facilitate the transition of new employees to not only their roles and responsibilities, but to the organization as well. In-services

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are “the learning experiences provided in the work setting for the purpose of assisting staff members in performing their assigned functions in that particular agency or institution” (ANA, 2000.p. 24). Staff development departments offer all three of these activities and sometime they can overlap, so the question then is, “which ones are eligible for contact hours?”

Types of Activities Eligible to Award Contact Hours

ANCC specifies that contact hours are awarded only when the learning activity consists of new and transferrable knowledge that “can be applied regardless of the employer of the activity participant” (ANCC, 2009, p. 5).

Here are three examples of activities. First, telemetry and critical care orientation programs include content on Basic Dysrhythmia Interpretation. Nurses need this content to perform their jobs. However, this learning activity conveys new knowledge and skills that are transferrable to other job settings. Therefore, contact hours can be awarded for this. Second, an

educational activity to introduce the use of a new wound care product. The product is new, but the information is specific to that particular product only and not transferrable. If there is general information on wound assessment and healing, that content may receive contact hours, but the content related to the specific product would not be eligible for continuing nursing education contact hours. Additionally, if the education is conducted by the product representative, *none* of the content is eligible for contact hours. Third, refresher courses for nurses re-entering the work force are becoming increasingly common. Since these nurses have been out of nursing practice for several years, the refresher course is designed with new information and skills that have emerged during their absence. A refresher course would be providing updated (new) knowledge, skills, and attitudes for the provision of quality care, thus, for this type of course the content area would be eligible for continuing nursing education contact hours.

Please contact us with any questions.

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