



E D U C A T I O N S P O T L I G H T

A Newsletter for NYSNA Approved Provider Units

May 2009

Welcome to the May issue of the Education Spotlight. Please send us your Approved Provider Unit “best practices,” what’s been working for you, so we can share them in this newsletter. You may e-mail us at the address below. We look forward to hearing from you.

ANCC Updates

The 2009 ANCC Accreditation Application Manual was released on March 25, 2009. Approved Provider Units will be responsible for adhering to the new criteria by January 1, 2010. There are changes that affect what types of organizations are eligible to be an Approved Provider Unit, how the Approved Provider Unit operates, and also criteria changes that affect single educational activities that are offered by the Approved Provider Unit. Here are a few examples:

- Eligibility to become an Approved Provider Unit:
 - o **Starting August 1, 2009** organizations that have targeted more than 50% of their educational activities in the previous year to nurses in multiple regions (using the DHHS regions: www.hhs.gov/about/regions/) must apply to the ANCC to become an Accredited Provider Unit, unless the additional targeted areas are states that are contiguous to the primary region. If you are already an Approved Provider Unit, you may maintain that status until your approval period expires.
 - o Commercial interests may not be Approved Providers. A commercial interest is any entity that produces, markets, re-sells, or distributes healthcare goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. Also ineligible, are organizations that are owned or controlled by a

commercial interest, as described above. An Approved Provider Unit may have a ‘sister company’ that is a commercial interest, but there must be adequate firewalls to prohibit any influence on the Approved Provider Unit operations or on the educational activities (ANCC. 2009. Application Manual. Silver Springs, MD: American Nurses Credentialing Center.)

- Qualifications of the Approved Provider Unit Nurse Planners:
 - o The Approved Provider Unit must have at least one Nurse Planner. The Nurse Planner must be a Registered Nurse with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in nursing. In addition, the Nurse Planner must have education or experience in the field of education or adult learning. The Nurse Planner is responsible for adhering to the NYSNA/ANCC criteria in offering continuing nursing education activities (ANCC. 2009. Application Manual. Silver Springs, MD: American Nurses Credentialing Center.).
- Enduring Documents:
 - o Enduring documents (self-learning texts, CDs, tapes, computer-assisted or computer-based learning materials which are used alone, or with written materials) must include a statement that explains how long contact hours will be

awarded for an activity. This statement must appear on all marketing materials and on the educational materials. For example, “Contact Hours will be awarded for this activity until...” This will help to ensure that the educational material is up-to-date and relevant.

- Commercial Support:
 - o The brochure and/or printed educational activity materials must include information about commercial support that has been provided for the activity.
 - o Planners and presenters must disclose the presence or absence of conflict of interest relative to each educational activity.
 - o When commercial products are displayed, participants will be advised that approved status refers only to its continuing nursing education activities and does not imply NYSNA or ANCC Commission on Accreditation endorsement of any commercial product.
 - o A written agreement that documents the terms of support is required. This agreement should specify the source; identify the terms, conditions, and the purposes of the support; and must be signed by both the educational activity provider and by the source of the commercial support

Please keep alert for further information regarding the updates.

NYSNA Revisions

The changes in the NYSNA applications and Annual Reporting form reflect the new ANCC criteria. All of the revised NYSNA forms and processes are available on our website (<http://www.nysna.org/ce/approval.html>). For the month of May, there are two versions of the applications and of the Annual Report form. One version is to be used for materials that will be submitted through

May 31, 2009 and the other version is to be used for materials that will be submitted on or after June 1, 2009.

Please remember to use the most current forms from the website instead of working off of older forms that are saved on your hard drive.

The NYSNA Guide to Approval of Continuing Nursing Education Activities will be updated to reflect the NYSNA/ANCC revisions. You

may access it for free from the Continuing Education/approval process website (<http://www.nysna.org/ce/approval.html>). Changes have been made from the hard copy version that you may have purchased, and updates will be incorporated on an ongoing basis. We will indicate when revisions have been made to the electronic Guide.

Please keep alert for further information.

Comments from the Council

What You Need to Know about Evaluation Criteria:

Q: Are the evaluation criteria for an Individual Education Activity the same as for my Approved Provider Unit evaluation?

A: No, they do differ, even though some parts are similar. The Approved Provider Unit evaluation is an overall evaluation of your unit and how it operates, identifying strengths and areas for growth. The evaluation criteria for an Individual Educational Activity are evaluation methods for that ONE program.

Q: What elements are required in an Educational Activity evaluation?

A: The Educational Activity evaluation has four main components:

- a) Identification of the type of evaluation. This must include an assessment of Learner Satisfaction. Other types of evaluation include Knowledge Enhancement, Skills & Attitude Changes, Change in Practice/Performance, and the Relationship of the Practice Change to Quality of Service.
- b) The Learner Satisfaction Tool minimally needs to evaluate the learner's degree of achieving the learning objectives, effectiveness of each faculty presenter, and whether the program was fair, unbiased, and free of commercial influence. In assessing the achievement of objectives, the Learner Satisfaction evaluation may also be including evaluation of Knowledge Enhancement and Skills & Attitude Change, depending on the nature

of the learning objectives.

- c) Statement on how the evaluation data will be used to improve future deliveries of education.
- d) Statement on how feedback will be given to participants

Q: What is the purpose of NYSNA requesting information about the Approved Provider Unit's evaluation plan?

A: The information requested on the Approved Provider Unit application and on the Annual Report form is requested in order to help you evaluate your unit's over all strengths for providing continuing nursing education. We hope it will assist you to judge your personnel, equipment, facility/space resources, budget/monetary resources, past successes, challenges, as well as individual educational activities. With this data summarized, you may identify future directions more easily.

Q: How can I develop an Evaluation Plan for my Approved Provider Unit?

A: Utilize the NYSNA Guide to Approval of Continuing Nursing Education Activities available for free on the NYSNA Continuing Education/Approval Process web page. Review the section on Provider Unit evaluation.

You could consider using a four column grid to identify the What (category of evaluation), When (time frame), How (method), and Who (evaluators) to address the areas. For the What categories of evaluation consider including areas such as: assessment of Provider Unit's accomplishments related to goals, assessment of the Approved Provider

Unit's individual educational activities, assessment of Provider Unit's resources, budget, program planning, and equipment.



Remember, you can always contact the staff at NYSNA via email or by phone. Please do not hesitate to ask.

Ellen La Dieu, Council on Continuing Education

SAVE THE DATE:

July 31, 2009

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

NYSNA Conference Center Latham, NY

"The NLN Preparation Course for Certification as a Nurse Educator"

SPEAKER: Linda Turchin, MSN, RN, CNE

www.nln.org/facultydevelopment/workshopsandconf.htm

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