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A Newsletter for NYSNA Approved Provider Units

September 2009

Welcome to the September issue of the Education Spotlight. We're back after our August newsletter holiday.

ANCC Updates

Approved Provider Units will be responsible for adhering to the ANCC updates by January 1, 2010. The recorded webinars that address the criteria changes to Approved Provider Unit operations and to the individual educational activities that your Provider Unit offers, are available on our webpage (<http://www.nysna.org/ce/approval.html>) under the heading "Update Webinars for Approved Provider Units." There are handouts for note-taking available on the same page.

NYSNA Revisions

The NYSNA Guide to Approval, available electronically on the webpage, will be updated in the coming month – the current information and examples are based on the 2007 guidelines. For information on the criteria updates, please refer to the Approved Provider Unit application, to the Operational Requirements form included within the Approved Provider Unit application, to the Educational Activity application, to the Annual Report form, to the Biographical Data/Disclosure of Vested Interests form, and to the webinars.

Commercial Support

- A 'commercial interest' is any entity either producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing healthcare goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients or that is owned or controlled by an entity that produces, markets, re-sells, or distributes healthcare goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. This definition allows a provider to have a 'sister company' that is a commercial interest, as long as the [approved] provider has and maintains adequate corporate firewalls to prohibit any influence or control by the 'sister company' over the CE program... (ANCC. (2009). Application manual accreditation program. Silver Springs, MD: American Nurses Credentialing Center.).
 - No applications or re-applications will be accepted from commercial interests for Approved Provider Unit status.
 - ANCC does not consider providers of clinical services directly to patients to be commercial interests.

- Vendors/Exhibitors
 - Vendors/exhibitors that are not involved in a specific continuing education program, but rather have paid to exhibit at an educational activity do not have to be listed as commercial supporters of the educational activity and no commercial agreements are required.
 - There is no need for disclosures on the Provider Unit's part, regarding the vendors/exhibitors in the exhibit area.
 - When promoting the conference as a whole, you may include the vendors/exhibitors on the general conference materials and you must include the commercial sponsors.
 - If you have materials that specifically promote the educational activities that are awarding contact hours, you must include the commercial sponsors in those materials, but it is not necessary to include the vendors/exhibitors, as they have no connection to the individual continuing education programs.

FAQs

Q: If we offer a live activity, and then record it and offer the recorded version as a continuing education activity as well, can we consider them the same activity?

A: No, these are two separate activities. One of them is a live activity with its own objectives, teaching methods, learning activities, and assessment/evaluation methods. The other is an enduring activity that requires an "offered until" date, and which has a different set of objectives (because of the learning platform), different teaching methods, learning activities, and assessment/evaluations methods. These activities must have separate files and should be treated as two different activities.

Comments from the Council

Tips on being the Nurse Planner:

Be actively involved as the Nurse Planner from the very beginning of the process. With the expanded requirements to identify the purpose and develop the program to meet identified gaps, planning is even more essential. When you know the gaps in
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knowledge, skills, and practice you can more easily determine content, teaching and learning strategies. Requiring yourself to consider these areas will allow you to plan, deliver a more effective, targeted program, and you are likely to achieve the outcomes in nurses' behaviors or patient care that you seek.

When coordinating speakers, especially from another discipline, identify the learning objectives you want them to cover. That way you direct the topic and can ensure the wording of the objectives meets the requirements. If you just accept what they send in as an outline, the content may vary and the objectives may not be written in a measurable format. You might meet or discuss the topic with them and then set your learner objectives after the expert has given you an idea of what they can present. Be sure as the Nurse Planner, that you plan and do not just accept what is offered.

Consider the teaching and learning strategies for the content. Commonly, presenters use electronic slides, but do not

limit yourself. To help the learners apply their knowledge, how about a case scenario discussion or role play?

The Nurse Planner must be an RN with at least a baccalaureate in nursing, and they must possess education or experience in adult education principles. Be sure to include this documentation on the Biographical Data form. The lead Nurse Planner is responsible to keep other planners current on the educational criteria required. For additional information on

the role of the Nurse Planner, view the recorded webinar on Provider Unit Operations available on the Approval Process page of the NYSNA.org site.



Ellen LaDieu
Council on Continuing Education

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