**Will You Meet Continuing Education Requirements When Renewing Your Nursing License?**

Pain Management Requirement -- Since January 2017, nurses have been required to complete at least 2 hours of continuing education in pain and symptom management. If only 1 credit hour has been met thus far, nurses need to obtain an additional 1 credit hour of continuing education in pain and pain symptom management prior to renewing their nursing licenses this year. Previous to January 2017, nurses were only required to complete 1 hour of pain and symptom management continuing education.

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has also expanded and clarified ways in which 25 credit hours of approved continuing education credits may be earned. The new rules allow for different ways in which to earn continuing education credits, including the following:

Limitation of Online Continuing Education - The number of credit hours that may be earned by online or by electronic media is limited to no more than 12 credit hours earned during a 24-hour period.  “Online or electronic media” includes videos, internet web-based seminars, video conferences, online continuing education programs, and online journal articles.

No Credit For Identical Programs/Activities – A nurse may not earn credit for a continuing education program or activity that is identical to a program or activity a nurse has already earned credit for during the previous two-year renewal period.

Academic Programs - Five credit hours of continuing education may be earned for each semester credit hour completed in an approved academic nursing program.  Three credit hours of continuing education may be earned for each quarter credit hour earned.  If audited, nurses will need to produce an official transcript indicating completion of the academic course and the semesters/credit hours earned.

Specialty Certifications – Twenty-five hours of continuing education may be earned by obtaining or maintaining specialty certification as a clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, or nurse practitioner during the renewal period.  Proof of certification or recertification will serve as proof of continuing education.

National Nursing Specialty Examination – A nurse may earn ten credit hours upon successful completion of a national nursing specialty examination.  Continuing education credit hours are limited to a maximum of 20 credit hours in any given renewal period.  Credit will not be given for repeating the same examination in a renewal period. If audited, the nurse will need to submit proof of a passing score on the examination.

Publications - A nurse may earn up to a maximum of ten hours in a renewal period for an initial publication of a chapter or article related to the practice of nursing or allied health in either a nursing or health care textbook, peer-reviewed textbook or a nursing or health care peer-reviewed journal. Proof of earned credit hours requires a copy of the publication, and identification of the nurse as the author, or a publication acceptance letter.

Articles Without Self-Assessment - A maximum of four credit hours may be earned by reading articles or viewing or listening to media related to nursing practice that does not include a self-assessment test.  Each hour of earned credit equals 50 to 60 minutes of participation.  If audited, the nurse will be required to submit an affidavit attesting to the description of and number of hours spent reading articles or viewing or listening to media.

Quality Patient Care/Utilization Activities - A maximum of four credit hours may be earned by participation on a health care organization’s committee addressing quality patient care or utilization review.  Each hour of earned credit equals 60 minutes of participation.  Proof of participation requires a letter from the organization verifying the nurse’s participation and the number of hours spent in committee activities.

Academic/Program Presentations **–** Presentation of an academic or continuing education program that is not part of a nurse’s regular job description may count towards continuing education credits. For each 60 minutes of presentation, the nurse may earn three credit hours, up to a maximum of six credit hours in a license renewal period. To receive credit hours the nurse must maintain a copy of the curriculum and a letter from the program sponsor verifying the length and date of the presentation.

Serving As A Preceptor – A nurse may earn continuing education credit by serving as a preceptor for at least one nursing student or new employee undergoing orientation up to a maximum of five credit hours in each renewal period. The length of the preceptorship must be for a minimum of 120 hours and have a 1 student/employee to 1 preceptor ratio. Proof of the preceptorship requires documentation from the educational institution or preceptor’s supervisor verifying the dates and hours of the preceptorship.

Certified Organizations - In addition to the aforementioned ways of earning continuing education credits, programs and activities approved or offered by the following certified organizations will continue to be acceptable ways in which to earn continuing education credits.

* American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
* American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
* Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
* American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
* American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
* American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
* National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
* National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service (NAPNES)
* National League for Nursing (NLN)
* Another State’s Board of Nursing
* Other continuing nursing education programs approved by Michigan’s Board of Nursing

Documentation of Continuing Education Credits - Maintaining documentation of earned continuing education credit hours is necessary in the event a nurse is audited.  Such documentation must be retained for a period of four years from the date of license renewal.  If documentation cannot be provided to support reported continuing education credits earned, the lack of documentation could result in disciplinary action against a nurse’s license.

Human Trafficking - In addition to the 25 hours of continuing education credits needed for renewal of a nurse’s license, a nurse must also obtain training in human trafficking. Human trafficking training does not need to be certified by one of the sponsoring organizations above, but it must address the following topics:

* Understanding the types and venues of human trafficking in Michigan or the United States
* Identifying victims of human trafficking in health care settings
* Identifying the warning signs of human trafficking in health care settings for adults and minors, and
* Identifying resources for reporting the suspected victims of human trafficking

Waiver of Continuing Education Requirements – The board of nursing may waive continuing education requirements for a nurse, if upon a written application by the nurse, the board finds the nurse failed to complete board-approved courses or programs due to a defined circumstances, which include disability, military service, absence from the continental United States, or a circumstance beyond the control of the nurse. The board of nursing determines if the nurse’s waiver application is sufficient. If the board of nursing finds that any of these conditions exist and grants a waiver, the number of hours waived will be proportional to the lengthy of time the licensee met those circumstances.

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