NEBRASKA
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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nebraska Board of Nursing

ADVISORY OPINION

OPINION: Continuing Education
ADOPTED: 2024
REVISED: 9/2025
REAFFIRMED:

The Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion is issued in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216(2). As such, this advisory opinion is for informational purposes only and is non-binding. The advisory opinions define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of Nursing.

Nursing Continuing Education

Background

Chapter 101 Practice of Nursing regulations were updated in 2019. The language related to peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed, as it applies to continuing competency was removed, due to the confusion that it caused. Starting with licensure renewal in 2025, non-peer reviewed educational offerings will not be accepted for renewal purposes. Nurses will need to seek ***approved nursing continuing education*** for the purposes of license renewal.

Summary

Twenty hours of nursing continuing education from an approved provider is required for licensure renewal every two years. ***The purpose of continuing education is to enrich knowledge, improve skills and develop attitudes for enhancement of nursing practice, thus improving care provided to the public. The nurse should reflect on their nursing practice and identify gaps in knowledge and select education to fill the knowledge gap.***

Approved Providers of Continuing Nursing Education (CNE)

An approved provider indicates the education has been formally reviewed by an independent third party or organization that approves nursing education programs. Examples of Approved Providers:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Look for this symbol.

- Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional continuing education. Look for this symbol.

- Boards of Nursing. (Nebraska accepts programs approved by any Board of Nursing)
- Multiple on-line providers of nursing continuing education.
  Search the providers website for a nursing accreditation agency (many are approved by ANCC).
  If you are paying for the education, the program is likely accredited.
- Many large Healthcare facilities are approved providers of nursing education.
  If the program has been approved for Nursing CE, it will be listed on the flyer or promotional materials. Not every program offered by a healthcare facility may have been approved for Nursing CE. Many facilities offer grand rounds. If the provider has only sought approval for Continuing Medical Education (CME). RNs and LPNs cannot use CME towards licensure renewal.
- If the flyer provides language such as "Contact your Board of Nursing to see if it meets requirements for renewal", and you cannot easily find the approved provider of the nursing education on the program promotional materials, most likely the program organizers have not sought accreditation (approval) from an outside entity for the program. The education program cannot count as Continued Nursing Education.

Advancing Nursing Degree counts as CNE

Completion of academic courses that advance a nursing degree. 1 semester credit hour is equivalent to 15 contact hours, 1 quarter credit hour is equivalent to 10 contact hours.

Basic Life Support ACLS, PALS, NRP, TNCC

Basic Life Support and certifications that build on the foundation of basic life support may be claimed for renewal contact hours. Initial certifications may require more than four hours to complete. Nurses may claim the number of hours stated on the certification of completion. In the absence of hours listed on a card or certification, current certification may be claimed as four contact hours for renewal purposes.

Q. A nurse has a current BLS, ACLS and PALs certification, how many hours can the nurse claim for those certifications?
A. 12

CERPs

CERPs (Clinical Education Recognition Points) are recognized by the AACN (American Association of Critical Care Nurses). CERPs are used to recognize a wide spectrum of continuing educational activities performed by nurses in high acuity and critical care and fulfill educational requirements for certification, as long as the program is approved by AACN.

AACN accepts CERPs for the purposes of certification and recertification of specialty certifications such as Critical Care Registered Nurses (CCRN). Nebraska recognizes specialty certifications for the purpose of licensure renewal.

CERPs are also awarded by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBCLC) for various continuing education activities related to lactation and breastfeeding. There are three different categories L-CERPs (lactation), E-CERPs (ethics), and R-CERPs (related).

IBCLC is not directly recognized by ANCC. However, the IBCLC is recognized by the Magnet Recognition Program, which is managed by ANCC. If organizations are seeking Magnet status, IBCLC can be used as part of the requirements. IBCLC is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

Some state Boards of Nursing and other certification organizations may recognize CERPs as meeting CE contact hour requirements. CERPs are accepted by the Nebraska Board of Nursing.

Continuing Medical Education

Q. Can RNs and LPNs claim Continuing Medical Education (CME) and AMA PRA Category 1 credits for licensure renewal purposes?
A. NO.

Continuing Medical Education is designed for physicians continuing education. Nurses need to seek continuing education for Nurses.

Only APRNs may use Continuing Medical Education (CME) and AMA PRA Category 1 for licensure renewal purposes. APRNs need to check with their certifying bodies to verify Physician continuing education is accepted for recertification purposes.