

Continuing Education Approver Unit (CEAU)

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Georgia nurses updated on the latest accreditation and education news to assist in planning and providing quality nursing education activities.

Nursing is the most trusted profession. We in the Approver Unit feel very strongly that a huge part of maintaining that trust is ensuring nurses can attend quality Continuing Professional Development activities.

As nurses, it is our responsibility and accountability to continue our own professional development, not only as needed for re-licensure, but to ensure our patients receive high quality care that promotes positive patient outcomes. A CE activity needs to provide valuable information to improve a nurse's knowledge, skills, or ability to practice within a health care setting safely.

The purpose of the Continuing Education Approver (CEAU) is to provide a uniform system of approval for CNE activities. We use standardized scoring based on the 2015 ANCC Criteria to ensure applications are reviewed in a fair and unbiased manner.

In each newsletter, we want to provide our stakeholders valuable information regarding the application process for Individual Activities and Approved Providers. Important information from ANCC is sent to the CEAU Nurse Peer Review Leader, Lynn Rhyne. We are then responsible for disseminating this information to the members in the CEAU as well as to you, our stakeholders.

In the following pages, the author provides information regarding the professional practice gap and how to determine if one exists.

The author also shares recent updates from ANCC about Approved Provider and Individual Activity applicants.

We are working to become the premier Continuing Education Approver and Provider for the State of Georgia. It is a tedious process, that requires strict attention to details so that we are able to meet the educational needs of our nurses according to the standards that ANCC upholds. To that end, we are striving to work with all educators and organizations, whether as an Individual Activity Applicant or Approved Provider Applicant.

The CEAU is planning an Approved Provider Application Workshop October 19 (tentatively). This is a great opportunity to get necessary insight for those considering the Approved Provider application as well as those who are in the middle of the application process.

What is a Nurse Peer Reviewer (NPR)?

The NPR:

- is a licensed registered nurse with a current, unencumbered nursing license (verified) in the state of Georgia.
- holds a baccalaureate degree or higher in nursing.
- is a member of Georgia Nurses Association.
- has education or experience in the field of education or adult learning and is supportive of the education philosophy of GNA.
- possess the relevant knowledge and experience in continuing nursing education to participate in the peer review process.

Would you like to become a Nurse Peer Reviewer? If you meet these qualifications please contact Lynn Rhyne, Nurse Peer Review Leader (GNA CEAU) at rhynelynn@yahoo.com.

Current members in the CEAU:

Lynn Rhyne, RN, MN, MNN, NPRL
Ryan Bannan, BSN, RN, CCRN
Georgia Barkers, EdD, MBA, MHA, RN, NEA-BC
Evelyn Bell, RN, BA, MSN, PhDc
Marlette Buckner, RN, BSN, MN, ACNS-BC
Syllette DeBois, DNP, MSN-Ed, RN
Keitta Evans, RN-BC, BSN, MSN, LNHA
Brenda Futrill, MS, BSN, RN, LHNA, QCP
Kathy Hammond, MS, RN, BSN, BSHE, RDN, LD, RN
Dina Hewett, PhD, RN, MSN, BSN, NEA-BC
Wanda Jones, RN, BSN, MSN, FNP-BC
Barbara Mammen, RN, BSN, MN, RNC-OB, CCRN-A
Cordia Starling, EdD, MS, BSN, RN
Debra Stevens, DNP, PMC, MSN, RNC
Mary Watson, RN, BSN, MHR
Sherry Wright, MBA, MaEd, BSN, RN

Continuing Nursing Education or CNE?

The American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation, states that continuing nursing education (CNE) healthcare providers the opportunity to enhance their competence and improve their ability to provide quality patient care (ANCC, 2013, pg.2). In order to develop professionally, nurses must have access to learning opportunities that address their needs and the professional practice gap identified in their practice.

CNE builds upon the educational and experiential resources the registered nurses already possess and provides a mechanism "the enhancement of practice, education, administration, research or theory development, to the end of improved the health of the public" (ANCC, 2013, pg.2).

GNA believes that learning is a lifelong process. It is a voluntary process and each individual nurse assumes primary responsibility for continuous learning. CNE is one mechanism for maintenance of professional competence and licensure, which contributes to the protection of the consumer of nursing services. CNE activities should address learning needs of professional nurses, reflecting concerns of individuals and groups to promote and improved nursing and health care services and to advance nursing as a professional discipline. GNA has the responsibility to disseminate and implement standards of CNE consistent with national professional criteria for both approval and provision of continuing nursing education (continuing professional development). ANCC Accreditation Program supports the lifelong learning needs of professional registered nurses by ensuring that educational activities are designed using criteria that are evidence-based and that are independent from commercial influence. (ANCC, 2013, pg.1)

Registered nurses in the state of Georgia are required to acquire 30 CNE contact hours [O.C.G.A. §43-26-9(b.1)(1)] (not CEUs) every 2 years for re-licensure. The acquisition of contact hours must coincide with the nurse's license renewal. Contact hours are based on the 60-minute hour.

Many nurses look for approved GNA/ANCC contact hours when making education activity decisions. GNA is an accredited ANCC/COA approver. Since we are ANCC accredited, this approval is recognized by other state nurses' associations and most state boards of nursing.

The Individual Activity Application is submitted for activities so contact hours can be awarded to participants. Approval of this type of educational activity ensures participants that the activity/program meets professional standards for continuing nursing education.

The GNA Nurse Peer Review Leader is available to assist applicants prior to planning, implementing, and evaluating a CE activity. Applicants are also welcome to contact us if they are undecided on whether to pursue Approved Provider status. When you are ready, simply complete the application packet (found on the GNA website, www.georgianurses.org) and submit the application fee based on the number of contact hours being applied for. We will then have the application reviewed by two nurse peer reviewers who have been trained in evaluating with 2015 ANCC criteria. The individual activity will be approved for two years. There is no limit on how often the activity can be conducted nor is there any restriction on number of learners it may be presented to, as long as the presentation has the same content and faculty.

Educators who offer, plan, and present multiple activities over next three years should consider applying to be an Approved Provider.

If you have offerings you would like to be posted in future GNA CEAU newsletters or if you have anything you would like to share with the members who receive the newsletter, please email Lynn Rhyne at rhynelynn@yahoo.com.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Georgia nurses updated on the latest accreditation and education news to assist in planning and providing quality nursing education activities, and we welcome additional interest pieces to add value to the publication.

As we continue to grow and improve our team, the GNA CEAU welcomes your feedback to improve our communication and service. We wish you a great end to the summer and better begging to the fall as school starts and time keeps moving forward!

Other Offerings and Presentations

2018 Annual State Conference

Unity Conference for Nursing Excellence Advancing Health through Synergy

Cobb Galleria Center
2 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339
October 4-6, 2018

Register:

www.georgianurses.org

Weekend Immersion in Informatics

Ethica Training Center
1005 Boulder Drive
Gray, GA 31302
October 12-13, 2018

Mail completed registration with payment to:

Ethica
Weekend Immersion in Nursing Informatics Conference
1005 Boulder Drive
Gray, Georgia 31032

Or

Register online

www.ethicahealth.org/wini-registration.html

GNA Approved Provider Application Workshop

October 19, 2018 (tentatively)

Georgia Nurses Association/Georgia Nurses Foundation
3032 Briarcliff Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Once date is confirmed, register on line:

www.georgianurses.org

Georgia Nurses Association – Approver is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation

Contact Information

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Charlotte Baez-Diaz,	Communications Manager/CE Liaison	www.georgianurses.com

References:

American Nurses Credentialing Center (2013). *2013 ANCC primary accreditation application manual for providers and approvers, revision 3.0*. Silver Springs, MD: Author.