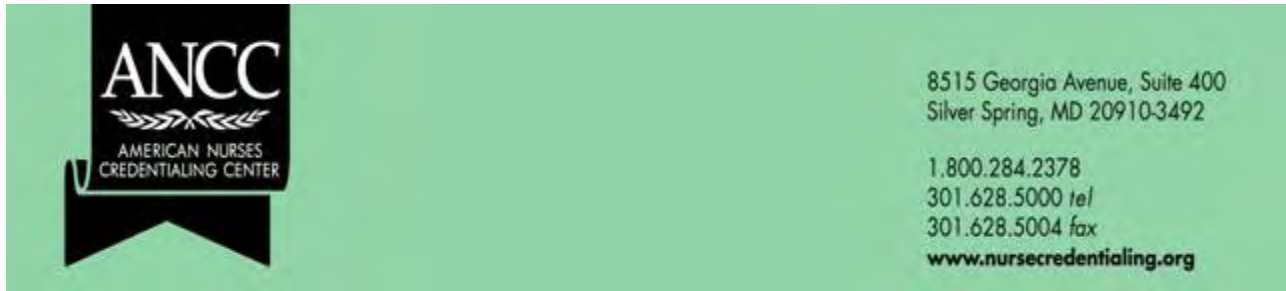


From: Barbara Feild

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 10:08 AM

Cc: Jeanne Floyd; Debbie Hatmaker; MaryMoon Allison; MaryMoon Allison; Bakewell, Susan; Cheryl Schmidt; Christine Saltzberg; Diana Swihart; Diana Swihart; Eileen Robinson; Barbara Feild; Lyn DeSilets; Mary Anne Celenza; Pam Dickerson; Wanda Dougals

Subject: BLS, ACLS, PALS contact hours



TO: All ANCC Accredited Organizations

FROM: MaryMoon Allison, MHSE, BSN, RN,CAE
Director, ANCC Accreditation Program

ANCC recently sent a notice of the interpretation of the COA regarding the practice of awarding contact hours for activities such as BLS, ACLS, PALS, etc. (That message is repeated below.) This practice was considered after receiving a request and information from a state board of nursing. We regret that the rationale for the Commission's decision was not disseminated along with the decision. The discussion of the COA was:

BLS is no longer an augment to the nurse's basic knowledge. Therefore it doesn't meet the definition of continuing nursing education. Universities now require the student to be certified in BLS before ever entering the academic program. BLS is not an augmentation of knowledge; it is a basic preparation for training.

The advanced life support activities meet the definition of CNE because they are not included in the nurse's basic training and therefore augment that training. However, these courses do not change often or significantly. Therefore, renewal of certification is meant to validate that the knowledge previously obtained has been retained. It does not augment that knowledge.

Please note:

- The issue discussed was related to whether the courses meet the definition of continuing nursing education. It did not address the issue of these courses typically being 'canned' courses. The COA's discussion did not even mention the issue of 'canned' courses and that was not a relevant factor in the decision.
- The effective date of this interpretation is two years away. This was done in order to avoid necessitating any mid-stream changes.

- The COA understands that the courses sometimes see significant revisions based on new evidence. The COA has agreed to continually monitor the more common advanced courses for significant revisions. If significant revisions occur, then the COA may re-visit the current interpretation of whether the course meets the definition of continuing nursing education.

Original Message Subject: BLS, ACLS, PALS and related courses sent on May 21, 2009:

At their May 19, 2009 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation decided that contact hours for BLS and other **basic** “canned” courses may not be awarded. Any courses currently being presented (by either accredited providers or approved providers) must cease to award contact hours by June 1, 2011.

The Commission also decided that contact hours for renewal of ACLS, PALS and other **advanced** “canned” courses may not be awarded. Any courses currently being presented (by either accredited providers or approved providers) must cease to award contact hours by June 1, 2011.

Awarding contact hours for initial ACLS, PALS and other **advanced** “canned” courses is still permitted.

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