State and Association/Certifying Boards CE Requirements

Each year, The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing conducts a survey of all State Boards of Nursing ([SBON] n = 62 members of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing) and selected national professional nursing organizations/certifying boards ([NPNA/CB] n = 34). As usual, the SBON and NPNA/CB were asked to update information; otherwise, the same information previously collected would be reprinted. For the first time, state boards of nursing were also asked to provide information about advanced practice nurses. This is the ninth annual survey.

Forty-one (41) SBONs responded (66% return rate); NPNA/CB data updates totaled 20 (65% return rate). States were asked about the continuing education requirements for both renewal of registration and reentry into active practice, or reactivation of a license for registered nurses, licensed practice/vocational nurses, and advanced practice nurses. They were asked to identify the usual approval/accreditation body, and if no CE requirements existed, whether there were plans during the next 2 years to create requirements. The NPNA/CB were asked questions pertaining to certification/recertification requirements.

This summary of information is designed to help educators in continuing education and staff development know the general status of continuing education requirements for certification and licensure. Requirements of 27 state boards (44% of the individual boards) include continuing education for renewal. Forty-three (43) state boards (69%) have requirements for reentry, and fourteen (14) designated requirements for advanced practice nurses.

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