



## Standards of Integrity and Independence (SII)

The ANCC content integrity standards align with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) standards and will now be referred to as the Standards of Integrity and Independence. The Standards are designed to:

- Ensure that accredited continuing education serves the needs of patients and the public.
- Present learners with only accurate, balanced, scientifically justified recommendations.
- Assure healthcare professionals and teams that they can trust accredited continuing education to help them deliver safe, effective, cost-effective, compassionate care that is based on best practice and evidence.
- Create a clear, unbridgeable separation between accredited continuing education and marketing and sales.

### Standard 1: Ensure Content is Valid

Standard 1 applies to all accredited continuing education. Approved Providers are responsible for ensuring that their education is fair and balanced and that any clinical content presented supports safe, effective patient care.

### Standard 2: Prevent Commercial Bias and Marketing in Accredited Continuing Education

Standard 2 applies to all accredited continuing education. Accredited continuing education must protect learners from commercial bias and marketing.

### Standard 3: Identify, Mitigate, and Disclose Relevant Financial Relationships

Standard 3 applies to all accredited continuing education. Many healthcare professionals have financial relationships with ineligible companies. These relationships must not be allowed to influence accredited continuing education.



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#### Special points of interest

- File Audit Process
- NARS Activity Reporting
- NJSNA Approver Unit Staff
- ANCC Content Integrity Standards align with ACCME Standards

## Standards of Integrity and Independence

Standard 3 continued—The accredited provider is responsible for identifying relevant financial relationships between individuals in control of educational content and ineligible companies and managing these to ensure they do not introduce commercial bias into the education. Financial relationships of any dollar amount are defined as relevant if the educational content is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company.

### Standard 4: Manage Commercial Support Appropriately

Standard 4 applies only to accredited continuing education that receives financial or in-kind support from ineligible companies. Accredited providers that choose to accept commercial support (defined as financial or in-kind support from ineligible companies) are responsible for ensuring that the education remains independent of the ineligible

company and that the support does not result in commercial bias or commercial influence in the education. The support does not establish a financial relationship between the ineligible company and planners, faculty, and others in control of content of the education.

### Standard 5: Manage Ancillary Activities Offered in Conjunction with Accredited Continuing Education

Standard 5 applies only when there is marketing by ineligible companies or nonaccredited education associated with the accredited continuing education. Accredited providers are responsible for ensuring that education is separate from marketing by ineligible companies—including advertising, sales, exhibits, and promotion—and from nonaccredited education offered in conjunction with accredited continuing education.

*Detailed information can be found on our website, [www.njsna.org](http://www.njsna.org), Professional Development link.*

#### Key Reminders

- ANCC content integrity standards align with the ACCME standards—implemented July 1, 2022.
- Even though approved providers and IAA are not offering “accredited” CE, they are operating under ANCC/NJSNA criteria and must follow the same standards for integrity and independence as accredited providers
- Please note the approved providers and IAAs may not refer to their activities as accredited CE
- **Accredited CE** is reserved for organizations that are **ACCREDITED PROVIDERS**.

## THE EVALUATION METHOD

The evaluation method is used to determine the effectiveness or impact of the activity on the identified professional practice gap and the learning outcomes. The Nurse Planner/Planning Committee determines the methods used to evaluate each educational activity. The nurse planner must go beyond identifying and naming the evaluation method and provide a detailed description. The evaluation components and methods of evaluation should be relative to the desired learning outcome(s) and professional practice gap of the educational activity.

It is required that the NP evaluate the impact or effectiveness of the activity as it relates to the identified professional practice gap the underlying educational need and the learning outcomes.

Examples of Evaluation Methods	
Knowledge	Self-reported change in knowledge Post-test Question and Answer Polling Questions
Skill	Return Demonstration Simulation Case Study Analysis
Practice	Self-reported Change in Practice Over Time Observation of Practice Post-Activity



*The New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) is dedicated to the proliferation of high-quality nursing continuing professional development (NCPD).*

## SUMMATIVE EVALUATION: Did your program have an impact?

Why is the summative evaluation important? What was the purpose of your educational activity? What is expected of the learners to know as a result of participating in the educational activity?

Based on our recent survey, it has been noted that it has become a challenge to get this information from nurse planners who has offered a program. Please note the following:

- Evaluation of activities is required to determine if the outcomes were met and if not why? What do you need to do?
- The summative evaluation also includes how the data will be used to guide future activities.
- How would you assess the change in knowledge, skills, and/or practices of the target audience if information is not complied to determine this?
- Evidence and barriers that prevented the unit from achieving the desired outcome in the summative evaluation.
- As a provider unit you evaluate the effectiveness of your unit in delivering quality nursing continuing professional development (NCPD). If your summations show that you have not met the outcome of the program what change would you make? Do you need to change the overall program? Do you need to change how you presented the program? Does any of these changes effect the overall provider unit?

**SUMMATIVE EVALUATION IS PART OF YOUR PLANNING PROCESS!**

### REMINDER

#### **NURSING ACTIVITY REPORTING SYSTEM (NARS)**

***(NJSNA'S Reporting Year is January 1, 2022 ending December 31, 2022.)***

All organization's programs and activity data must be entered into the reporting system and complete the Attestation by January 31st.

**\$100 FEE WILL BE INCURED**

**NO EXCEPTIONS**

## File Audits

Starting the beginning of 2023, NJSNA Approver Unit will begin file auditing of our Approved Providers and Individual applicants.

This will assist in standardization across the board with our units.

## TIME VERSUS QUALITY

What is the reason that your organization became an Approved Provider (APs)? Why does your organizations submit individual applications (IAA) for contact hours?

We all know that professional development is important and it ensures that knowledge and skills stay relevant and up-to-date.

As an accredited organization we understand the intensity involved with the planning of a program. We hear you when you say that this is a tedious process. Your job is not solely dedicated to continuing nursing professional development. But do you value your nurses? What is your Return on Investment?

The application has set standards as per the ANCC/NJSNA criteria. Based on our review of current applications we observed that time is not well spent in the development of the programs. Criteria is not being met which causes a delay in approving your provider and individual applications.

We as an accredited organization depend on APs and IAAs to provide education to their nurses. We can't provide education to all nurses throughout the state, though we would like to.

It is important that programs planned meet their expected outcome and this takes time. Unfortunately, the planning is more than 15 minutes.

We recognize that this is a major problem across the board:

- No time
- No help
- No staff

But there was a reason why you became an Approved Provider. There is a reason why you submit individual applications. What was this reason? What change is happening within your facility? What new information must be taught to your nurses?

ANCC defines nursing continuing professional development as: "learning activities intended to build upon the educational and experiential bases of the professional RN for the enhancement of practice, education, administration, research or theory development, to the end of improving health of the public and RNs' pursuit of their professional career goals." (2015 Primary Accreditation Manual for Providers and Approvers p.23)

The role of nurses is important in healthcare. Nurses are patient advocates and they are in the front line of care.

We are facing a rapidly changing healthcare environment and nurses must be prepared to meet the diverse needs of patients. Advance skills are needed.

Coming together as one with our Primary Nurse Planners to focus on continuous life-long learning we can face the challenges ahead and realize Education is the key to enhance Patient Outcomes.

It is about quality and the time vested in this process for it will contribute to the success of your organization and the advancement of every nurse you have educated to maintain high standards of care.

## Fee Increase Announcement

Unfortunately, due to the increased cost of running our approval unit prices have slightly increased. It has been five years since our last increase. We want to continue to run an efficient program and to accommodate the needs of our units.

We will be expanding our services to meet the demands of our units. More information forthcoming.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.



*NEVER FORGET THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE*

### **4-MONTH GRID QUARTERLY REVIEW CYCLES REMINDERS**

*To assist our units in the preparation of their renewal application process, email notifications will be sent out to the Approved Provider's Primary Nurse Planners noting their review cycle as a reminder.*

*Please make sure that we are notified of any changes in Primary Nurse Planners in your facility.*

#### **CYCLE DATES**

##### **December Review Cycle**

**Approved Providers** – Approved Providers whose status expires between the months of *April* through *June* must have their applications postmarked and submitted by December 31.

##### **March Review Cycle**

**Approved Providers** – Approved Providers whose provider status expires between the months of *July* through *September* must have their applications postmarked and submitted by March 31.

##### **June Review Cycle**

**Approved Providers** – Approved Providers whose provider status expires between the months of *October* through *December* must have their applications postmarked and submitted by June 30.

##### **September Review Cycle**

**Approved Providers** – Approved Providers whose status expires between the months of *January* through *March* must have their applications postmarked and submitted by September 30.

**MAKE A REMINDER-  
NOTE**



## NJSNA Approver Unit Staff

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**THANK**  
**YOU**

**TO ALL OF  
OUR  
APPROVED  
PROVIDERS  
AND  
INDIVIDUAL  
APPLICANTS!**

**Our program  
is successful  
due to your  
dedication to  
your unit.**

Academy of Clinical and Applied Psychoanalysis  
Atlantic Health System  
AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center  
Bergen County Dept. of Health Services  
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center  
Bon Secours Health System  
Capital Health  
CarePoint Health  
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium  
CentraState Medical Center  
Cicatelli Associates, Inc.  
Cooper University Health  
Corporate Nursing Service - NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation  
Deborah Heart and Lung Center  
Ellis Hospital  
Englewood Hospital & Medical Center  
Finger Lakes Health  
Garden Area Health Education Center (AHEC)  
Hackensack Meridian Health - Ann May Center for Nursing  
Hackensack Meridian Health - Meridian  
Hackensack Meridian Health - North: HUMC, PMC, JFK  
Health Professional and Allied Employees (HPAE)  
Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET)  
Healthcare Training Academy  
Helen Hayes Hospital  
Holy Name  
Hospital for Special Surgery  
Hunterdon Healthcare System  
Jefferson Health formerly Kennedy Health  
Molloy University, Continuing Education Division  
New Jersey Association of Directors of Nsg Administrators/ LTC  
NJDOH - Communicable Disease Service  
NYU Langone Health  
Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern NJ  
Philippines Nurses Assn. of NJ  
Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central, and Southern New Jersey  
Prime Healthcare NJ  
Reproductive Medicine Associates of NJ IV RMA Global  
Richmond University Medical Center  
Saint Peter's University Hospital  
Samaritan Healthcare & Hospice  
Seton Hall U College of Nursing  
Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative  
St. Joseph's Healthcare System  
The Center for Professional Development in Nursing and Health at Monmouth University  
The Valley Hospital  
University Hospital  
Virtua Health  
VNA Health Group