



**Continuing Education Approver Unit**  
**August 2016**

**Approved Provider Unit Bulletin**

**Hello Approved Provider Units!**

**I hope everyone has had a great summer. I cannot believe that it's almost over...**

**Reminder:** Don't forget we have our annual provider unit update sessions scheduled throughout NC from October 17-20<sup>th</sup>. Dates, sites, and registration information is available on our website @ [www.ncnurses.org](http://www.ncnurses.org) under our Education/Provide tab. The sessions are filling up fast, don't wait too long to register if you are planning to attend. All PNP's, NP's, and support personnel are invited to attend.

We are seeing a number of individual activities submitted with renewal applications that have three practice gaps identified – knowledge, skills, and practice, but the education content is directed towards a knowledge gap. If/when gaps of knowledge, skills, and practice do exist – then you need to decide which gap(s) the education you are planning will be designed to address.

We are planning a class for those interested in becoming Nurse Peer Reviewers of CNE provider renewal applications in early 2017. Being a nurse peer reviewer is a great way to learn more about the ANCC criteria and assist your own unit in becoming an accomplished provider unit. Let me know if you are interested in participating.

At the fall updates we will be discussing new clarifications from ANCC regarding the evaluation of conflicts of interest. Completion of COI forms will no longer be required for non-clinical educational events. Conflict of interest disclosures will still continue to be required. See below.

**Conflict of Interest (COI) - Excerpt from ANCC Newsletter**

A conflict of interest (COI) exists when three conditions are present:

- An individual is in a position to control content of the educational activity, and
- The individual has a relationship with a commercial interest organization, and
- The products and/or services of the commercial interest organization are relevant to the content of the educational activity.

All three conditions must be present in order for a COI to exist. For example, a COI does not exist if an individual cannot control the content of the educational activity. A COI does not exist if an individual in a position to control content of the educational activity does not have any relationships with commercial interest organizations. And, a COI does not exist if the content of the educational activity is not relevant to the products and/or services of a commercial interest organization. While the first two conditions are relatively straightforward (whether an individual is in a position to control

content and whether an individual has a relationship with a commercial interest organization), evaluation of relevance of content requires critical analysis. The Nurse Planner is accountable for ensuring compliance of this criterion requirement.

The Nurse Planner is accountable for identifying all individuals in a position to control content of the educational activity, and for evaluating whether a COI exists. If a COI exists, as defined by the three conditions noted above, the Nurse Planner must resolve the conflict. Resolving a conflict does not eliminate the conflict – it means that the conflict has been managed in a way that ensures the integrity of the content of the activity. Learners must be informed of presence **or** absence of COI for all individuals in a position to control content. If a conflict of interest is present, the learner must be provided with the name of the individual, the nature of the relationship, and the name of the commercial interest organization.

Documentation in the activity file to demonstrate compliance with this criterion requirement also rests with the Nurse Planner. The Nurse Planner will demonstrate compliance through collecting and reviewing COI forms and including the forms in the activity file. The Nurse Planner must ensure documentation reflects that he/she has identified all individuals in a position to control content, has reviewed any relationships individuals in a position to control content have with commercial interest organizations, and determined if the content of the educational activity is relevant to the products and/or services of the commercial interest. If relevant, the Nurse Planner must document the resolution process implemented.

When content of an educational activity has no relevance to the products and/or services of a commercial interest organization, the Nurse Planner may choose to document that no COI exists for those in a position to control content - by methods other than a disclosure form. This can reduce the documentation burden for the Nurse Planner. Even though no COI forms may have been collected and evaluated, the absence of conflicts of interest for planners and presenters must still be disclosed.

Content that may not be related to the products and/or services of a commercial interest organization (therefore not requiring evaluation of COI) includes but is not limited to: leadership development, communication styles, preceptor development, or similar non-clinical topics.

**See you in October!**

**Take care,**

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