

## Illinois Registered Professional Nurse Continuing Nursing Education Option Availability

The Nurse Practice Act requirement for registered nurses to achieve 20 hours of Continuing Education (CE) per two year renewal cycle will begin with the 2010-2012 RN licensure renewal cycle. This table is not meant to be an inclusive list of all CE opportunities, nor an endorsement of any of the options listed below. The Proposed NPA Rules, Section 1300.130, contains the specific language regarding Continuing Education. Up to three examples are listed in each section below.



Registered Professional Nurse Continuing Nursing Education (CNE)* or Continuing Education (CE) Option Availability in Illinois – Based on Proposed NPA Rules		
<b>Accessibility</b> What access will RNs have to Continuing Education (CE) courses?	<b>Affordability</b> What is the cost range for obtaining CE credit hours?	<b>Accumulation</b> Will the RN be able to accumulate enough CE hours in each 2 year period?
<p><b>Magazine:</b> publication: distribution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Illinois Nurse: quarterly:-mailed to all RNs, LPNs, APNs in IL</li> <li>2) Nursing Spectrum: bi-weekly: Greater Chicagoland &amp; Heartland RNs</li> <li>3) Advance for Nurses: bi-weekly: Greater Chicago &amp; Southern IL RNs</li> </ol> <p>All also offer CE in other formats: on-line, web-based, live webinar, audio courses and podcasts</p>	<p>CE Cost per: hour, member/nonmember, annual fee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) IL. Nurse: free, \$7.50/hr member, \$15.00/hr non-member, no current annual rate</li> <li>2) Spectrum: free, \$10.00/hr, \$34.99/year, &gt;500 offerings available on-line</li> <li>3) Advance: free, \$8.00/hr, \$15.00/2hrs, \$26.99/year; &gt;90 offerings available on-line</li> </ol>	<p>CEs, especially those that are web-based, will provide immediate verification of completion (often referred to as a CE Certificate).</p> <p>It is required that individual RNs keep records of CE credit hours accrued during each licensure renewal period should IDFPR do an audit during the license renewal period beginning in 2012.</p>
<p><b>Direct Mail-</b> many options available</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Courses ordered through catalog, or on-line; audio tapes also available</li> <li>2) Schools: courses ordered through catalog, or on-line; audio tapes also available</li> </ol>	<p>CE Cost per course</p> <p>Average cost 30 hour course: \$30.00-\$70.00/course;</p> <p>Deals include: 1 course, 2 exams (share cost of course with a friend); second course ½ price; not all courses eligible for reduced price deal. If exam is failed, may retake once for no additional cost.</p>	<p>Course: completed exams mailed or on-line return Complete courses (books, audio-tapes) mailed directly to a nurses house; upon successful passing of exam, verification is obtained; must finish within 12-24 month period</p>
<p><b>Specialty Professional Associations**:</b> (*see clarification footnote-next page) in their member communications CE opportunity is offered</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) AACN: American Association Critical Care Nurses: weekly e-newsletter, magazines: multiple versions publish monthly, bi-monthly, and on-line</li> <li>2) American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing: bi-monthly magazine, monthly e-newsletter, also on-line</li> <li>3) Academy of Med-Surg Nurses: bi-monthly magazines, weekly e-newsletter, also on-line</li> </ol>	<p>Membership cost/year; Cost of CE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1)AACN: \$78.00/yr, if certified \$179.00/3 yr; CE free to members, &gt;300 offerings</li> <li>2) AAACN: \$130.00/yr; average CE = free, \$15.00-\$20.00/hr, some cost more</li> <li>3) Academy M-SN: \$84.00/yr; average CE= free, 2.9hrs or less is \$15.00, member discount rate is \$10.00/hr</li> </ol>	<p>CEs, especially those that are web-based, will provide immediate verification of completion (often referred to as a CE Certificate).</p> <p>Specialty Nurse Certification: this is recognition and validation of a nurse’s skills, knowledge and abilities in a specific area of expertise.</p> <p>Nurses typically need continuing education to maintain specialty certification after the initial certification exam; these nurses are familiar with collecting CE hours &amp; supporting documents</p> <p>Many employers pay an increased wage based on continued certification through a specialty nurses association, &amp; provide a place for nurses to store written CE completion documentation</p>

<b>Accessibility</b> What access will RNs have to Continuing Education (CE) courses?	<b>Affordability</b> What is the cost range for obtaining Continuing Education (CE) credit hours?	<b>Accumulation</b> Will the RN be able to accumulate enough CE hours in each 2 year period?
<p><b>Presentations:</b> attend in person/direct meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) National: AACN:NTI/National Teaching Institute: world's largest conference for critical care nurses, 6 day event; 6-8 hours CE offerings/day, average 30 CE/6 days, maximum 80 CE.</li> <li>2) State: Illinois Nurses Association: biennial meeting, 1-3 days, 6-8 hrs CE/day</li> <li>3) Local Chapters: Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses; 4 local chapters episodic meetings  AACN: 8 local chapters</li> <li>4) Employer educational sessions</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) AACN: approx \$500.00/6 days, not including hotels, meals, transportation</li> <li>2) Illinois Nurses Association: biennial meeting: \$175.00/2 days. Association also has local/district meetings with varying provision of CE at meetings</li> <li>3) Academy M-S Nurses: four local chapters: Chicago, Quincy, Rockford-Freeport and St. John, IL; meeting schedules vary, as does provision of CE @ meetings  AACN: (American Association of Critical Care Nurses) eight local chapters: Arlington Heights, Belleville, Champaign, Chicago, Hanna City, Plainfield, Rockford, Springfield, IL; meeting schedules vary, as does provision of CE at meetings</li> <li>4) provided on-site, the first time of traditional annual required classes awarding CE is allowed. Many employers are beginning to have specific classes that also offer CE; topics such as: disease status updates, new procedures, etc.</li> </ol>	<p>Employer reimbursement: the cost of continuing education continues to be reimbursed, more in the urban areas than the rural areas.</p> <p>Attending local chapter or district meetings within a nearby geographic area, facilitates accumulation of CE hours.</p> <p>State or National meetings offer accumulation of CE hours or credits compacted into a day, or a few days.</p> <p>Employers: ambulatory care/community based clinics and office practices not attached to a hospital, nurses have access to magazine and on-line courses; local communities have places that offer classes with CE credit, many will be increasing their offerings, not wanting to take a chance that nurses will be ineligible to work.</p> <p>Many employers are becoming approved as providers of CE, so that some classes, such as nursing grand rounds which are routinely practice topic specific can offer CE credit. Some in-house annual classes such as fire drills, IV care, do not meet CE pre-determined criteria.</p>
<p><b>Presenter/lecturer presentations</b> made to other health professionals.</p>	<p>Presentations can potentially occur on the job site, in the community, etc.</p>	<p>Each individual, non-repetitive 60 minute lecture may be used for 5 CE hours. FT educators may not use presentations that are part of their job expectations, but may use guest lectures.</p>
<p><b>College and Other Credit:</b> community college and university courses may be used for continuing education credit. Other courses such as Continuing Medical Education courses are also appropriate.</p>	<p>Cost is based on credit hour: the cost of college credit education continues to be reimbursed, more in the urban areas than the rural areas</p>	<p>1 academic semester hour = 15 contact hours  1 academic quarter = 12.5 contact hours  1 CME=1 contact hour (CME=Continuing Medical Education)  1 CNE=1 contact hour (CNE=Continuing Nursing Education)</p>
<p><b>Authoring</b> papers, publications, articles, dissertations, book chapters or research projects.</p>	<p>Use of laptop computers and the internet facilitates the writing process.</p>	<p>The research project must be applicable to the practice area and must be completed during the pre-renewal period. A paper or an article may be used for 10 CE hours. A book chapter, dissertation or research project may be used for 20 CE hours.</p>

**\*\* Specialty Professional Association: there are at least 64 organizations that limit membership to nurses who provide a specific type of care, example: critical care, rehabilitation, medical-surgical, ambulatory care. Almost all of these nursing associations/organizations, through member communication, offer CE opportunity to members and nonmembers, lower fee/ members. The vast majority of these CE opportunities are ANCC (American Nurses Credentialing Center) approved. Continuing Education (CE) programs approved by the ANCC are accepted by most states for RN license renewal process. \*American Nurses Credentialing Center refers to Continuing Education as Continuing Nursing Education; here both terms are used interchangeably.**