Recent Board Action Regarding Registered Nurse Continuing Education Regulations

At its meeting on Feb.17, 2011, the State Board of Nursing voted to waive Sections 21.131 (g)(2) and (3) of the RN Regulations. Sections 21.131(g)(2) and (3) had allowed the board to renew the license of a licensee who reported on the renewal form that they did not complete the 30 hours of continuing education (CE) in the previous two-year renewal period. The licensee was given six months to make up the CE but was subject to a civil penalty for not completing the CE within the previous renewal period.

What this waiver of the regulation means is that starting with the October 2011 renewal:

- **To obtain a renewed license, an RN will be required to verify on the renewal that they have the 30 hours of CE at the time that they complete and submit the renewal application.**

- **If a licensee indicates on the renewal application that they do not have the 30 hours of CE, the license will not be renewed.**

The board noted that as a regulatory body, charged with public protection, it is in the best interest of the public to only renew the license when the licensee has completed the entire CE requirement.

In addition, all the other health licensing boards within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs operate under this process and only renew the license if the licensee completes the CE requirement.

The board will be amending the continuing education regulations in the near future to reflect this change and interested parties will have an opportunity for comment.

The board encourages all licensees to complete the required CE in a timely manner and in the two-year period prior to renewal to avoid a delay in their renewal.

For additional information related to the CE requirement, visit the board's website at www.dos.state.pa.us/nurse.

Other News:

- Disciplinary Actions

Contact Us   Report Unethical Activity   Renew Your License   Meet the Board   PHMP