

# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions American Nephrology Nurses Association Continuing Education Approval Board – Transition November 2018

### 1. What is the ANNA Continuing Education Approval Board (CEAB)?

CEAB is a committee within ANNA that approves chapter education programs for contact hours. The ANNA CEAB is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center - Commission on Accreditation (ANCC-COA). Over the past many years, CEAB has provided a valuable service for members, colleagues, and other organizations interested in providing quality nursing education for contact hour credit.

### 2. Why is ANNA discontinuing services provided by CEAB?

Unfortunately, over the past several years CEAB has experienced a significant decrease in the use of the service. As a result, the ANNA Board of Directors felt it was necessary to carefully review CEAB's services, including all staff and operational expenses. To assess the use and value of CEAB, ANNA conducted several surveys among stakeholders. The data affirmed that CEAB provides outstanding services for ANNA's chapters, members, and other organizations. However, we also found the overall use of CEAB's services continues to decline, while the cost of providing the service is not decreasing.

### 3. Did external factors play a role in the decision to discontinue with CEAB?

Yes. During recent years, external factors have caused a steep decline in the number of local chapter programs. The biggest factor is the unavailability of corporate sponsorship of educational programs that provide contact hours due to changes in regulatory and pharmaceutical guidelines for programs.

### 4. What decision was made by the ANNA Board of Directors?

After much discussion and debate about the pros and cons for keeping CEAB operational, ANNA's Board of Directors arrived at the conclusion that it is no longer financially feasible to continue this service.

### 5. When will CEAB services end?

The Continuing Education Approver Board will cease operations effective April 15, 2019.

### 6. What dates are important for our chapter's future planning?

**March 1, 2019** - The last date that CEAB will accept "on-time" applications (received 45 days or more prior to the educational event). Applications will be processed at the normal application fee.

**March 15, 2019** - The final date for submission of "late" applications (submitted 44-30 days prior to the educational event). The normal late fee will be applied to these applications.

## Frequently Asked Questions 2018-19 CEAB Transition

**April 15, 2019** – CEAB will cease operations relating to approval of programs.

### **7. What resources and options are available for ANNA chapters to apply for CE approval of future educational programs?**

Several options are available for chapters to consider, including:

- Use a hospital approved program with whom your chapter can co-provide for contact hours.
- Apply to other ANCC Approver Units. The full list can be found on the ANCC website following this link: <https://www.nursingworld.org/organizational-programs/accreditation/find-an-accredited-organization/>
- Many State Nursing Associations have approver units, all of which can be found on the link above. States that are recommended on the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) Website include California, Florida, Kansas, Ohio, and Iowa Boards of Nursing.
- The Ohio Nurses Association has an application very similar to the one used by CEAB - <http://www.ohnurses.org/education/#activityapproval>.
- Chapters can apply to become a provider with the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) at <https://www.rn.ca.gov/applicants/cep-lic.shtml>. Approval by the California BRN enables your chapter/organization to provide continuing education activities for a two-year time period without having to apply for contact hours each time.
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) has an approver unit that is well-known within the nursing community. Their information is available at <https://www.aacn.org/education/program-approval>.

### **8. Can CEAB-approved programs take place after April 15, 2019?**

Yes. While CEAB will not be approving new programs, all approved programs are valid for delivery and/or repeat for up to two years from the date of approval.

### **9. Do chapters need to do anything regarding CE and record-keeping?**

As noted on your approval letters, if you opted to keep your own records, please save these for six (6 ) years, as required by ANCC. As a part of ANNA's ongoing services and requirements with ANCC, ANNA will maintain records for programs that were assigned to us. In the meantime, through this transitional period, we will be asking those of you who submitted programs for approval to complete the evaluation forms and audits that will be sent to you in the future.

### **10. Does this decision about CEAB affect ANNA's ability to provide education at its national programs and within its publications?**

No. ANNA is ceasing its **approval** process only. ANNA continues to be accredited with distinction as a **provider** of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center - Commission on Accreditation. Therefore, ANNA will continue to provide high-quality education and contact hours for many programs, including:

### Frequently Asked Questions 2018-19 CEAB Transition

- National Symposium
- Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management & Leadership Conference
- Nephrology Nursing Journal
- Online Library
- Books and publications
- Webinars
- CE on Wheels
- Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Workshop

**11. Does ANNA offer opportunities for chapters to conduct CE education programs without going through the process of applying through another organization?**

Yes. ANNA has programs and ideas to help chapters provide content for CE. Examples include:

- [CE on Wheels](#)
- [Free Monthly CE](#) that is sent to all members via email monthly
- [Group Access program](#)

For more information about these opportunities, [click here](#).

**12. How do the changes for CEAB affect CE requirements necessary for certification or re-certification by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)?**

NNCC requirements remain the same. NNCC will accept contact hours of approved continuing education credit in nephrology nursing approved by organizations accredited by the ANCC-COA. For more information about NNCC certification requirements, [click here](#).

**13. Will ANNA provide information and training about the transition and what chapters should consider for future programs?**

Yes. The ANNA Chapter Support Team (ACST) will conduct a session during LEAD on Sunday, April 14, 2019 in Dallas, TX to discuss and review what the transition means to chapters.

**14. If our chapter applies for approval from another organization, will ANNA provide any financial relief for the possible increase in application fees?**

We know that CEAB was a cost-effective service for chapters. If/when ANNA chapters incur higher than usual expenses for contact hour approval during the 2019 transition year, ANNA has established a grant program to help chapters offset the increased fees. You may apply for the grant by sending proof of your application payment made to another approver (e.g. California Board of Nursing, AACN, Ohio, etc.) and ANNA will provide reimbursement up to \$250 per chapter. This funding is available for ANNA chapters to cover the difference of application fees that are more expensive than the previous fees charged by CEAB. Also, please note, this is a one-time offer to help chapters during the transition year of 2019. Details and the grant application forms will be available on the ANNA Website in March 2019.

**Frequently Asked Questions 2018-19 CEAB Transition**

**15. Will ANNA continue to keep track of CE certificates from chapter education programs?**

Yes. Chapters can send proof of attendance and CE certificates from their programs to the ANNA National Office. Contact hours for approved nephrology continuing education will be entered into the members' CE transcripts.

**16. If we have questions, who do we contact?**

We will be happy to assist you in any way we can with this transition process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

- Sally Russell, Director of Education Services ([Sally.Russell@annanurse.org](mailto:Sally.Russell@annanurse.org))
- Jackie Myers, Education Services Coordinator ([Jackie.Myers@annanurse.org](mailto:Jackie.Myers@annanurse.org))
- Janet Betts, Manager, Chapter Services, ([Janet.Betts@annanurse.org](mailto:Janet.Betts@annanurse.org))

Or, you may call the ANNA National Office at 888-600-2662.