

Board of Nursing Rules Update

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The Administrative Rules of the Michigan Board of Nursing were recently updated, taking effect December 19, 2003.

Of interest to CRNAs is the requirement of at least one continuing education contact hour in pain and pain symptom management in each license renewal period. Continuing education contact hours in pain and pain symptom management may include, but are not limited to, courses in behavior management, psychology of pain, pharmacology, behavior modification, stress management, clinical applications, and drug interventions.

Whereas pain and pain symptom management are an integral part of nurse anesthesia practice, obtaining one contact hour in this domain will become a requirement for all nurses effective with the April 1, 2005 license renewal cycle. Please remember that, if and when audited, you will need to provide evidence of compliance with this new subrule, (R338.10601(2)(a)).

The AANA is now specifically recognized as a provider of continuing education programs by the Michigan Board of Nursing. This means that RNs who attend AANA-approved continuing education programs such as those sponsored by MANA or one of the Michigan nurse anesthesia programs will accumulate continuing education contact hours towards license renewal. This rule change does not affect CRNAs who are currently certified and recertified by the Councils, since the administrative rules previously recognized specialty certification or recertification as a nurse anesthetist as qualifying for twenty-five continuing education contact hours.

The other rule changes affected initial licensure in the state and nursing education programs that are regulated by the board. The rules also reference websites for the first time, acknowledging the importance of the Internet.