



CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

Website: <http://www.rn.ca.gov/licensees/ce-renewal.shtml>

Mandatory continuing education for license renewal has been in effect in California since July 1, 1978. Proof of 30 contact hours of continuing education is required for every renewal for an active license **except** for first time renewal by RNs who obtained their initial license by passing the national licensing exam within the past two years.

Courses must have been taken within the two years prior to the renewal date on the license, and must meet the Board's requirements. Course content must be relevant to the practice of nursing and must be:

- related to the scientific knowledge and/or technical skills required for the practice of nursing, **or**
- related to direct and/or indirect patient/client care.
- at a level above that required for licensure.

In addition to classroom/academic courses, RNs may take courses offered by approved providers (including independent/home study) in the areas of administration, management, education, research, and other functional areas of nursing related to direct/indirect patient/client care. Examples of acceptable providers include those approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing (a *provider number* is listed on their advertising), other California health professions licensing boards, and some interdisciplinary professional associations.

Continuing education course credit may be accepted from courses taken out-of-state which have been approved by registered nurse licensing agencies of other states, state nurses' associations, or by nationally recognized health associations or their regional subdivisions. Continuing Medical Education (CME) Category 1 courses are accepted as meeting BRN requirements.

CPR and Basic Life Support (BLS) courses and courses that deal with self-improvement, changes in attitude, financial gain, or that are designed for lay people are **not** acceptable. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) courses can be used only once during a two year cycle for renewal purposes.

Registered nurses are strongly encouraged to remain informed about current issues in nursing including:

- Prevention, detection and treatment of communicable diseases such as hepatitis, AIDS, tuberculosis, etc.
- Detection and treatment of abuse such as child, elder, dependent adult, spouse/partner.
- Special care needs of individuals and their families facing end-of-life issues.

For information concerning courses offered by approved providers of continuing education, contact local colleges, universities, hospitals, and nursing organizations.