

CONTINUING EDUCATION



Education for Public Health Nurses (PHN) Roles in North Carolina:

PHN's are obligated to meet additional educational requirements to function in specialty roles. Examples of required training include:

- Training identified in Division Agreement Addenda as programmatic requirements (e.g., Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Enhanced Role Registered Nurse (ERRN), Tuberculosis (TB) Lead Nurse, Communicable Disease (CD) Nurses, etc.)
- Training identified by the State Medicaid Agency or other agencies/organizations that provide reimbursement as mandatory criteria for staff performing reimbursable services (e.g., ERRN)
- NC Administrative Code 10A NCAC 46.0301(2) requires all local health department registered nurses who do not have a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) complete the Principles and Practices of Public Health Nursing (PPPHN) course during the first year of employment.
- Training identified by individual agencies, nursing directors/supervisors, or individual PHNs based on an assessment of the knowledge base and skills of an individual PHN and the requirements of the position (e.g., Triage Nurse, HIPAA Officer etc.)

NOTE: Continuing education should be a part of the individual RN's continued competency plan that is required by the North Carolina Board of Nursing for renewal of the nurse's license to practice.

North Carolina Board of Nursing Continuing Competence Requirements

All continuing competence requirements must be met before renewal or reinstatement licenses will be issued. No grace periods and no exceptions will be granted. The Continuing Competence requirements: [Continuing Competence - 21 NCAC 36.0232](#)

One of the following is required:

- 15 Contact Hours of continued education and 640 hours of active practice within previous 2 years
- National Certification or Re-certification by a National Credentialing Body recognized by the Board
- 30 Contact Hours of continued education
- Completion of a Board-Approved Refresher Course
- Completion of a minimum of two (2) semester hours of post-licensure academic education related to nursing practice
- 15 Contact Hours of continued education and completion of a nursing project as Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator to include statement of problem, project objectives, methods, date of completion and summary of findings

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- 15 Contact Hours of continued education and Authoring or Co-Authoring a nursing-related article, paper, book or book chapter
- 15 Contact Hours of continued education and developing and conducting a nursing continuing education presentation or presentations totaling a minimum of five contact hours, including program brochure or course syllabi, objectives, date and location of presentation, and approximate number of attendees

Continuing Education/Inservice available through Local Technical Assistance & Training Branch (LTATB):

The **Public Health Nursing and Professional Development Unit** (PHNPDU) nurse consultants provide ongoing training for local health department PHNs. These include:

- Documentation for Coding Evaluating and Management Visits – 2.0 NCPD Contact Hours and CPH Recertification Credits may be earned upon successful completion
- Orientation for Directors of Nursing/Nursing Supervisors – 2.0 NCPD Contact Hours and CPH Recertification Credits may be earned upon successful completion
- Public Health Nursing Lunch & Learn Webinars
- Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement
- Individualized Training Upon Request (examples include policies and procedures training, quality assurance and quality improvement training).

The **Administrative & Financial Support Unit** (AFSU) administrative consultants training **may** consist of the following:

- Finance & Billing Principles for Local Health Departments
- Billing Efficiencies
- One on One Orientation and Training for new finance officer, billing supervisor, health director, or any staff as requested by local agency
- Individualized Training Upon Request (example: Customer Service)

The **Public Health Nursing Institute for Nursing Excellence** (PHNICE) has been approved as a Provider of Nursing Continuing Professional Development (NCPD) by the North Carolina Nurses Association, which is accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation. PHNICE can provide or co-provide continuing educational activities that award contact hours.

A local health department wishing to co-provide an educational activity with PHNICE **must** contact the PHNICE Director (below) prior to beginning to plan the educational activity. If a PHNICE rostered nurse planner is available to help plan the activity, NCPD contact hours will be provided for the activity. Engaging a PHNICE rostered nurse planner at the beginning of educational activity planning is a requirement of ANCC, the national credentialing entity.

The rostered nurse planner will:

- assure that the appropriate forms are completed and sent to the PHNPD Unit; and
- assure that ANCC criteria are utilized in planning the activity.

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Kristin W. Briggs, MSN, RN
Director, Public Health Nursing Institute for Continuing Excellence
Division of Public Health, Local Technical Assistance and Training Branch
[NC Department of Health and Human Services](#)
(919) 618-3505
kristin.briggs@dhhs.nc.gov

North Carolina resources available to provide advanced educational degrees for the PHN:

Because of the complexity of and changes in the health care environment and the challenges facing public health, higher levels of formal education are increasingly necessary or preferred by employers. NC colleges and universities have made great strides in providing more geographically accessible programs with flexible schedules for students who must continue to work while pursuing advanced education.

For more information: <https://www.ncbon.com/education-overview>