



Continuing Education (CE) Providers

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Questions	Answers
Who are Board-approved providers?	An individual, partnership, association, organization, educational institution, governmental agency, or licensed health care facility, including hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, home health agencies, or other organized health care facilities, offering continuing education for nurses that meet Board criteria for approval. [610-X-2-.10 (1)]
How does an entity become approved by the Board of Nursing?	Approved providers must evidence capability to adhere to criteria indicative of quality continuing education activities for nurses. The criteria include specific requirements, such as having an organized educational unit and program director; policies and procedures which facilitate efficient operation of planned continuing education activities, including maintenance of reports and records, and appropriate educational facilities, resources, and instructors. The complete criteria, with guidelines, are available through the Board office. [610-X-10-.06]
Who are Board-recognized providers?	Board Recognized Continuing Education Provider: A national or regional agency, journal, Alabama regulatory agency or board, or another Board of Nursing recognized by the Alabama Board of Nursing as providing or approving continuing education, in accordance with criteria that are substantially the same as those required of Alabama Board of Nursing approved providers of continuing education. [610-X-2-.10(2)]
Do I have to be a registered nurse to be a program director for a continuing education provider?	The program director may be a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or otherwise qualified individual. If the program director is not a registered nurse, there must be evidence of consultation by a registered nurse. [610-X-10-.06(2)(b)]
I attended a program offered by a Board approved provider and the instructor was not well-prepared. How can I report the incident?	Please share your comments with the contact person for the provider number and the Board. You can contact the continuing education nurse consultant at the Board. Contact information for Board staff is located at the website, www.abn.alabama.gov .

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<p>If a provider fails to meet criteria, what action does the Board take?</p>	<p>The Board may deny or withdraw approval of any provider or continuing education activity [610-X-10-.06(4)]. Grounds for withdrawal of approval include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lack of qualified personnel for planning and conducting continuing education for nurses. b. Inadequate record maintenance. c. Fraud, deception, or misrepresentation relating to the educational program. d. Failure to comply with request(s) for documents or submitting false, inaccurate, or incomplete evidence of continuing education programs conducted and certificates issued. e. Aiding or abetting a licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by altering or falsifying certificates.
<p>Can a program director be disciplined by the Board?</p>	<p>A continuing education program director who is a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse and fails to comply with the requirements in the rules shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board [610-X-10-.06(6)]</p>
<p>Does the Board conduct routine audits to determine provider compliance with criteria?</p>	<p>The Board may conduct an audit, upon written complaint by any individual, for failure of a provider to meet criteria for approval. The Board also conducts random audits of providers to determine compliance with criteria. [610-X-10-.07(5)]</p>