

2018 MNA Proposal to Expand Opportunities for Nurses to Demonstrate Continuing Competence.

In 2018, Montana Nurses Association (MNA) submitted a proposal to the Board of Nursing (BON) leadership to expand opportunities for nurses to demonstrate continuing competence. These included the following recommendations:

1. In addition to continuing education, licensees can also provide evidence of professional development through:
 - a. Engaging in a professional development accreditation program's outcome-based learning program
 - b. Achieving and/or maintaining certification in a specialty nursing practice area
 - c. Participating in quality improvement or research project in the place of employment
 - d. Publication and/or presentation of nursing and/or healthcare related evidence-based content in a professional development setting (e.g., conference, workshop, peer-reviewed journal)
 - e. Enrollment as a student in a post-licensure nursing or health-related educational program through an accredited college or university

2. Nurses would have the option of using the current 24 contact hour requirement or combining contact hours with one of the above items:
 - a. Completion of an outcome-based educational experience at a level of 3 or higher (ability to apply knowledge and skill), or
 - b. Attaining and/or maintaining certification, or
 - c. 12 contact hours plus evidence from the employer of having participated in at least one quality improvement or research project, or
 - d. 12 contact hours plus evidence of at least one publication or presentation of nursing and/or health related evidence-based content, or
 - e. Earn post-licensure academic credit with 1 semester credit = 15 contact hours; one quarter credit = 12.5 contact hours (this is consistent with current rule)

3. APRNs would still need 12 contact hours of CE in pharmacotherapeutic contact hours.