

Continuing Professional Development

Introduction

In today's competitive and changing environment, it is increasingly important for RPNs to engage in lifelong learning. The rate of health care change continues to accelerate, directly affecting the practice of psychiatric nursing. In most practice areas, individuals who do not continuously improve their skills are soon out of date. At the same time, society's expectations of professionals have changed. It is no longer adequate to establish competence at the beginning of a career. Lifelong learning has become the norm as the public expects professionals to continue to demonstrate their competence.

Continuing Professional Development is a requirement for licensure.

In addition to working a minimum of 1400 hours in the five year period immediately preceding the date of application for renewal of active status, active practicing members must participate in activities leading to a minimum of **10 credits** per year.

The CPD requirements applies only to active practicing members. CPDs can only be earned during the time a member holds an active practicing licence.

Auditing

RPNAS conducts random audits of CPD activities to monitor the program and assist any members who may have questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many CPD credits do I need?

In order to qualify for registration for next year, you must have accumulated at least **10 credits** for the current year.

What kinds of activities qualify for CPD credit?

The chart on the back of this brochure outlines categories of CPD, examples of each category and the assigned credits per activity or hour.

CPD activities can include informal study, contributions to knowledge and formal study.

Students enrolled in a formal education program such as NEPS, the Post-Diploma or a Masters program, who take these courses while holding an active practicing licence with the RPNAS can use these studies for CPD credit.

CPD credits may also be applied to **professional or community involvement**. This includes such activities as service on professional and public bodies. Please remember that this service must contribute to your knowledge within the field of psychiatric nursing.

Presentations to others are also CPD activities. If you are presenting ACLS or PART, you would receive credit for only the **first** time you present.

What if my CPD activity is scheduled for after I send in my registration form?

If you do not have ten credits, but have scheduled an activity for November or December, list that on your form.

If I have more than enough credits, can I carry some over into the next year?

Yes, credits earned from October through December of this year which are not claimed on your registration form can be carried forward to next year.

You only need to list 10 credits on your form, not everything you have taken.

What if I receive my renewal information and suddenly realize that I do not have ten credits?

Think back over the year. What books or journals did you read on psychiatric nursing? Did you attend any educational sessions or workshops, either in your branch, agency or district? What opportunities are coming up that you can arrange into your schedule or what books can you find to read? You may have more than 10 CPD credits and do not even realize it.

Where do I find the CPD form to send in?

The CPD form is located on the back of your Registration Renewal Form. We have tried to make this process as easy and convenient as possible for you.

When we send you next year's license, we will also include a CPD record form to use throughout the year. *Please do not send this form to us, but instead transfer the information to your registration renewal form.*

For more information visit
<http://www.rpnas.com/cpd>