

# REFRESHER COURSE GUIDELINES

For Those Without Work Experience in the Last Three Years

The CCNE has created the Colorado Nursing Articulation Model to facilitate mobility between one level of undergraduate nursing education to another. Within three years of graduation, nurses may articulate directly from one program to most others without clinical work experience. However, nurses graduating more than three years prior to articulation must have worked at least 1,000 hours within the past three years or must have successfully completed a refresher course that has been approved by CCNE or the equivalent (e.g., nursing course work as specified by the accepting educational institution).

Nurse refresher courses seeking CCNE approval status for articulation must meet the following standards:

1. Course materials submitted for review must include course description, objectives, content outline, learning activities and methods and evaluation tools.
2. Course materials must substantiate that key elements and essential content are included in the course. Courses must have a broad-based general medical/surgical nursing focus.
3. Courses must have a minimum of 80 hours of theory and 80 hours of clinical contact. Nurses out of nursing practice 10 years or more must have the opportunity for more clinical time as needed.
4. Separate courses should be developed for the licensed practical nurse and registered nurse. If both practice levels are admitted to the same course, course materials must clearly differentiate appropriate skill level and knowledge base taught to each.

## Key Elements

### 1. Course Description

- a. General medical/surgical focus
  - Specialities may be included
- b. Contact hours
  - Theory - 80 minimum
  - Clinical - 80 minimum
  - Additional clinical time for nurses out of practice more than 10 years
- c. Clinical resources
- d. Audience
  - RN - must emphasize RN practice
  - LPN - must emphasize LPN practice
  - Both - must clearly differentiate knowledge and skill level for both

### 2. Objectives

- a. Overall course
- b. Specific unit

### 3. Content Outline

### 4. Learning Activities and Teaching Methodology

### 5. Evaluation and Grading Criteria

- a. Theory evaluation tool
- b. Clinical evaluation tool
- c. Skills list
- d. Criteria for successful completion
  - Documentation of successful completion
  - Method of permanent record keeping for three years postcompletion
- e. RN and LPN - must clearly differentiate knowledge and skill level for both

## Essential Content

### 1. Physical Assessment

- a. Review all systems
- b. Adult focus
- c. History-taking

### 2. Medication Administration

- a. Procedures

- b. Dosage calculations

### 3. Nursing Process

- a. Assessment
- b. Diagnosis
- c. Planning
- d. Implementation
- e. Evaluation

### 4. Nursing Skills Update

- a. Sterile technique review
- b. Universal precautions
- c. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

### 5. Pharmacology

- a. Major categories only
- b. Drug interactions
- c. Patient responses

### 6. IV Therapy

- a. Fluids and electrolytes
- b. Acid base
- c. Equipment (peripheral, central lines, pumps, PCA, IVACs)
- d. Medication
- e. Blood administration
- f. Complications

### 7. Nursing Knowledge Update

- a. Anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology
- b. Pharmacology
- c. Medical/surgical intervention
- d. Nursing care
- e. Major systems
  - Cardiac
  - Respiratory
  - Neurological
  - Endocrine (diabetes)
  - Gastro-intestinal
  - Orthopedic
  - Oncology
  - Immunology (infections, including AIDS)

### 8. Legal and Professional Issues

- a. Documentation
- b. Patient confidentiality
- c. Patient rights
- d. Nurses' rights
- e. Liability and malpractice
- f. Scope of practice (Nurse Practice Act)