



Information Regarding Coronavirus Impact on CCNE- Accredited Entry-to-Practice Nurse Residency Programs March 12, 2020

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is aware that many of its accredited programs are diligently working to establish contingency plans in response to the coronavirus outbreak. CCNE has received inquiries regarding how changes in learning session delivery, clinicals, or other learning experiences might affect a program's accreditation. CCNE's goal is to provide information on important considerations related to accreditation requirements and to maintain the health and safety of residents, faculty, staff, and patients. While CCNE expects programs to remain in compliance with the CCNE [Standards for Accreditation of Accreditation of Entry-to-Practice Nurse Residency Programs \(Standards\)](#) (2015), these standards allow for innovation, flexibility, and changes in program delivery, in keeping with the CCNE accreditation values. The information below is offered as guidance to programs that are finding it necessary to examine program delivery as a result of the spread of coronavirus.

Learning Session Delivery, Clinicals, and Other Learning Experiences

CCNE does not dictate method of program or content delivery in its accreditation standards. It is up to each program to determine how to deliver course content. Varied course delivery technologies, including but not limited to utilizing online modalities, even if these were not previously used by the program, are acceptable. Institutions are encouraged to employ a variety of teaching-learning practices that will support residents as they transition to their first professional nursing role and meet the program outcomes. Institutions must ensure that teaching-learning support services are in place to accommodate any transition in delivery.

Substantive Change Notification

As you may know, CCNE requires programs to submit a substantive change notification within 90 days before or after a substantive change is made in a program, including but not limited to changes in program delivery. Submission of a substantive change notification will *not* be required for *temporary* changes made by programs in the areas of learning session delivery, clinicals, and other learning experiences in response to the coronavirus outbreak. If such temporary changes extend past August 31, 2020, CCNE will consider those changes to be more permanent in nature, and a substantive change notification should be submitted.