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CCNEACCREDITATION.ORG

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To: Chief Executive Officers, Healthcare Institutions
Chief Nursing Officers/Chief Nurse Executives, Healthcare Institutions
Chief Nurse Administrators, CCNE-Affiliated Baccalaureate & Graduate
Nursing Programs
Nurse Practitioner Fellowship/Residency Program Directors
CCNE On-Site Evaluators
Accrediting Agencies
Selected Federal Agencies
National Nursing Organizations
State Boards of Nursing
Other Interested Parties

From: Dr. Elizabeth Ritt, Chair
CCNE Board of Commissioners

Re: CCNE Adopts Procedures for Accrediting Nurse Practitioner
Fellowship/Residency Programs

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Board of Commissioners adopted the *Procedures for Accreditation of Nurse Practitioner Fellowship/Residency Programs (Procedures)* on November 22, 2021, officially launching its national accreditation review of such programs. CCNE now welcomes the submission of applications for accreditation by nurse practitioner fellowship/residency programs.

Throughout the development of the *Procedures*, CCNE sought comment and input from its community of interest, including nurse practitioner fellowship/residency programs. The *Procedures* will assist institutions whose nurse practitioner fellowship/residency programs are preparing for accreditation and guide the CCNE Board and its committees in the accreditation decision-making process. Content includes, but is not limited to, steps in pursuing accreditation; monitoring of program performance; provisions for the review of adverse actions; and assurance of confidentiality throughout the review process.

In August 2021, CCNE widely circulated the proposed *Procedures*, inviting comments on the draft. All comments received were considered prior to the Board's finalization and approval of the document. A summary of changes following dissemination of the proposed *Procedures* is presented below. These changes clarify:

- that the program, while supported through a formal academic-practice partnership, may be primarily managed by either the healthcare organization or the academic institution (i.e., the sponsoring organizations) (p. 1);
- that programs seeking and maintaining CCNE accreditation acknowledge the procedural requirements (p. 1);
- CCNE's expectations regarding the qualifications of practicing nurses serving on its evaluation teams (p. 9);
- expectations regarding institutional accreditation of the healthcare organization, institutional accreditation of the academic institution, and programmatic accreditation of the nursing program at the academic institution (pp. 13-14);

- CCNE’s policies regarding “not met” standards as a result of review of monitoring reports (p. 20) and the possible outcomes related to the review of substantive change notifications (p. 22); and
- CCNE’s policy that confidential information may be shared in accordance with legal requirements (pp. 26-27).

The *Procedures* are accessible at

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/CCNE/PDF/Procedures-NP-Fellowship-Residency.pdf>

Nurse practitioner fellowship/residency programs interested in applying for CCNE accreditation or learning more about the process and timeline for accreditation should contact CCNE Accreditation Manager Renée Kalan at rkalan@ccneaccreditation.org or 202-887-6791 x230.

