

March 20, 2020

The Colorado Council on Nursing Education in partnership with the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence, have been meeting to create proactive solutions to ensure an ongoing workforce pipeline during this state of emergency. Current pressure on healthcare facilities is impacting the system's ability to provide direct patient care clinical placement opportunities for students. The consequence of this is a potential backlog of students who are nearing graduation but cannot access the required clinical experiences needed to enter the nursing workforce. This will only add to workforce shortages. We request that the State Board of Nursing convene an emergency meeting prior to the scheduled April 22 meeting to consider allowing the following modifications to the Chapter 2 Rules, time-limited to one year. The intention of these actions is to ensure new graduates can graduate on time and enter the nursing workforce to support the healthcare needs of Coloradans during this state of emergency and going forward:

1. Waive the requirement of fifty percent of clinical clock hours for the Clinical Simulation component in the four recognized specialty areas of pediatrics, obstetrics, psychiatric and medical surgical nursing as required by the State Board of Nursing (SBON) rule Rule 1.2 E. 15. c. (4)(c).

Increase the Clinical Simulation component (high fidelity, low fidelity, standardized patients and/or virtual simulation) in *all* clinical courses offered in the nursing program to exceed fifty percent of clinical clock hours. This would include Medical Surgical Nursing II, Community Health and Capstone (practicum) courses in addition to the four SBON recognized specialty areas of pediatrics, obstetrics, psychiatric and medical surgical nursing.

2. Waive the requirement for concurrent clinical and theory experiences ((SBON) Rule 1.2 C. 11. Definitions) in order to allow clinical hours to be completed beyond six months of the relevant theory content.

3. Waive the requirement for faculty supervision (SBON Rule 1.2 E. 15. c. (13) (d)) for healthcare related volunteer experiences and allow these healthcare related volunteer experiences to count toward required course clinical hours and total nursing program hours.

4. Waive the requirement for faculty supervision (SBON Rule 1.2 E. 15. c. (13) (d)) for assisting with telehealth care for high risk homebound patients and assisting with patient care coordination (i.e. follow up patient calls, education, etc.) and these experiences to count toward required course clinical hours and total nursing program hours.

5. Waive the requirement for the minimum number of clinical hours for nursing programs as required by the SBON Rule 1.2 E. 15. c. (4) (a): Practical Nursing Programs and Rule 1.2 E. 15. c. (4) (b): Professional Nursing Programs. We request a maximum decrease of 20% of the minimum number of total clinical hours for nursing programs as required by the SBON.

6. Decrease the number of items to address on Policy 60-06 Waiver for Nursing Education Programs documentation to include only those critical to the waiver request.

Thank you for your willingness to consider these modifications to the Chapter 2 rules during this extraordinary time. We are confident that by working together we will not only survive but also create a stronger and more vibrant nursing workforce that can and will support the needs of Coloradans. We endorse and request that these measures be approved.

Signed by the Members of the Colorado Council on Nursing Education, which comprises all the nursing schools in the state and multiple acute and primary care health systems in both rural and urban settings across Colorado.