

WNA Report and Request Form: Consideration of Dialogue Topic for 2017 WNA Membership Assembly

Topic to be addressed: Mandatory Continuing Education for Nurses as a Condition of Licensure

Submitted by: WNA Tri-Council

Background on the topic (research, data, survey, etc.)

- A literature review regarding mandating continuing education (CE's) for nurses was done.
- A polling was completed of all 50 states to identify states that require mandatory CE's as a condition for nurse licensure renewal. 32 out of 50 currently mandate CE's as a condition for nurse licensure renewal. WI currently does not mandate CE's as a condition for nurse licensure renewal and therefore is viewed as an outlier in this area across the nation.
- All WI professionals requiring licensure were polled to determine the number of professions that require CE's as a condition for licensure. 39 out of 52 professions require CE's as a condition for licensure renewal. Of the 13 professions that do not require CE's as a condition for licensure renewal four of those professions are in the nursing field (licensed practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN), licensed midwife, and nurse midwife).
- A survey regarding mandating CE's for nursing licensure in the state of WI was developed by the WNA Tri-Council in the fall of 2016. The survey was sent out to all LPN's and RN's in the state of WI fall of 2016 – spring 2017 and questioned nurses if they would support mandatory CE's as a condition for licensure renewal. Of the 586 respondents that completed the survey 76.05% (435 nurses) agreed with mandating CE's as a condition for nursing licensure renewal, 23.95% (137 nurses) disagreed, and 14 nurses did not answer the question.

Rationale for why this topic should be discussed by the WNA members during the WNA Membership Assembly Dialogue Forum

- Healthcare which nurses work in is an environment that is ever changing. In order to provide the best care to patients, nurses are expected to stay up to date with their knowledge & technology. In order to stay current with knowledge & technology nurses need to be lifelong learners & participate in continuing education (Casey, 2009).
- It was identified from a recent survey sent to all nurses in the State of WI that there is overwhelming support among WI nurses to mandate CE's as a condition for licensure renewal. Therefore making this a high priority topic to be presented to WNA members during the WNA Membership Assembly Dialogue Forum.

Recommendations for action to be taken by WNA (be specific)

The WNA Tri-Council would like to present the supporting evidence for mandating CE's as a condition for licensure renewal, to the WNA members in order to obtain their support & pursue legislation to mandate CE's as a condition for licensure renewal.