



March 18, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State Capitol of California  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, California, 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

Due to the mounting threat of COVID-19, clinical agencies in California have discontinued nursing clinical rotations, forcing schools to find alternative methods for students to meet their clinical hours. This will result in California's 2020 new nursing corps to be delayed from graduation, stranding students to be ready to enter the workforce with the competency of Registered Nurses within the next six months, significantly impacting public health.

**Due to this pandemic, we are requesting a temporary emergency regulation change to Bureau of Registered Nursing CCR Section 1426 (g)(2) until August 31, 2020. We are no longer able to adhere to the requirement that 75% of clinical hours in a course must be in direct patient care in an area specified in section 1426(d) in a board-approved clinical setting. In response, the U.S. Department of Education will allow accrediting bodies to issue guidelines to provide maximum flexibility to schools to meet program objectives, including clinical hours. We urge your administration to direct through Executive Order the CA Bureau of Registered Nursing to adopt the DOE guideline to allow schools to follow guidelines issued by their specific regional accreditor to meet program outcomes, including increased use of simulation and online education modalities:**

**Requested Language:**

**CCR Section 1426 (g)(2): Until August 31, 2020 accredited schools may follow emergency guidelines as issued by the U.S. Department of Education and issued by their specific regional accreditor, including, but not limited to, the increased use of distance education and simulation to meet program objectives.**

We represent nursing education in California and we collectively request that nursing faculty be immediately granted the maximum flexibility necessary to meet course objectives during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Scott R Ziehm, DNP, RN    Sandra Melton PhD, RN, ACNS    Sharon Goldfarb, DNP, RN, FNP

Scott R Ziehm, CACN President    Sandra Melton, COADN South President    Sharon Goldfarb, COADN North President

Ryan McElhinney

Community Colleague League of California

CC:    Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins  
      Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
      Hon. Steve Glazer, Chair Senate Business and Professions Committee  
      Hon. Evan Low, Chair Assembly Business and Professions Committee

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## FAQs

*What does this proposal do?*

It adopts temporary and emergency guidelines issued by the Department of Education to accrediting bodies, including Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Also, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) allows baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs to implement flexible approaches in order to graduate students on time during COVID-19 pandemic.

*Will this proposal reduce the quality of nursing student's education?*

No, as experts in the discipline and as educators, nursing faculty are well prepared to adapt curriculum to meet program objectives and provide quality education to students to prepare them for their profession.

*Will this proposal negatively impact patient care?*

No, the nursing students will receive a quality education that will prepare them for direct patient care. Access to flexibility in teaching modalities, including use of simulation is a well-established as a proven option to direct patient care in national studies.

*What is the consequence to public health if the 2020 new nursing corps does not graduate on time?*

California would face a serious nursing shortage during a public health crisis if students do not graduate on time.