

## Eligible to Apply to NCNA as an Approved Provider?

### American Nurses Credentialing Center

#### I. Boundaries for Approved Providers

**Q: Please explain the new rule regarding the boundary for approved providers.**

**A.** An organization with a majority of CE activities targeted to nurses

- from states within their region (see map) OR
- from within the region where the activity is to be provided or a state contiguous to it.

May apply to an approver to become an Approved Provider or may apply to ANCC to become an Accredited Provider, or may continue to apply for individual activity approval from an Accredited Approver.

An organization with a majority of CE activities targeted to an audience of nurses from

- outside the states of their HHS region (see map below) or states contiguous to that region

must apply to ANCC to become an Accredited Provider.

#### **Confused? Follow This Step-by-Step Guide below:**

##### **For the MAJORITY of your activities:**

1. Do you target the marketing of your continuing nursing education activities to individuals only from states other than the state where the activity is to be provided?

NO - STOP. You may apply to be an approved provider of continuing nursing education.

YES - GO to question #2.

2. Do you target the marketing of your education activities only to nurses in states contiguous to the state where the activity is to be provided?

NO - GO to question #3.

YES - STOP. You may apply to be an approved provider of continuing nursing education.

3. Do you target the marketing of your education activities only to nurses within the regions (as recognized by the Department of Health and Human Services, <http://www.hhs.gov/about/regions/>) where the activity is to be provided?

NO - Go to question #4

YES - You may apply to be an approved provider of continuing nursing education.

4. Do you target the marketing of your education activities only to nurses within the region where the activity is to be provided and to nurses in states contiguous to that region?

NO - STOP. Your MUST apply to be an accredited provider of continuing nursing education.

YES - You may apply to be an approved provider of continuing nursing education.

**Q. What is the reason for this rule?**

**A.** There have been incidences of providers being denied by one approver who then go to a series of other approvers until they find one that will approve their activity. These come to our attention through complaints from participants. It is therefore more efficient and protects the participants if ANCC reviews and accredits all of the providers reaching the larger audiences, so that they can be monitored more closely.

**Q. Must a provider whose majority of CE activities include internet activities/enduring materials or other learner-paced activities that target a nationwide audience apply to ANCC?**

**A.** Yes.

**Q. Can providers who target a nationwide audience and are already approved continue with their approval until its expiration date?**

**A.** Yes.



## II. Commercial Product Companies

**As of August 1, 2009**, commercial interest companies **can no longer apply** for approval through NCNA to become an Approved Provider. A commercial interest company is any entity that is (or is owned or controlled by any entity that is) producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing healthcare goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients.

This definition does allow a provider to have a 'sister company' that is a commercial interest, as long as the provider has and maintains adequate corporate firewalls to prohibit any influence or control by the 'sister company' over the CE program of the approved provider and in this case ANCC would expect that this adequate corporate firewall be in place. Exceptions are made for non-profit or government organizations and non-health care related companies.