

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206
www.scdhhs.gov
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MEDICAID BULLETIN

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TO: Administrators of Medicaid Certified Nursing Facilities

**SUBJECTS: I. Increase in Hours for Nurse Aide Training Programs
II. New Timeframe Policy for Nurse Aide Program Testing**

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will be making important changes to the South Carolina State-approved Nurse Aide Training Program (NATP) requirements. These changes will be effective as of July 1, 2013.

I. Increased Number of Hours for Nurse Aide Training Programs

January 1, 1989 policy for the South Carolina Nurse Aide Training Program required 80 hours of Nurse Aide Training, 40 hours classroom/theory and 40 hours of clinical in a Long Term Care Facility. The number of hours required from a State-Approved training program to become a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) will be increased from 80 hours to 100 hours. The additional 20 hours must be documented in skills/lab training.

II. New Testing Timeframe Policy

Nurse Aide candidates, who have successfully completed a 100-hour State-approved Nurse Aide Training Program, must take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) examination no later than two (2) years from completion date of the training. If the NNAAP examination is not taken within two (2) years of completion date of training, the candidate will be required to re-train from a 100-hour State-approved program.

The above policy will also affect Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) students. August 7, 2003 policy allowed RN & LPN students, who had successfully completed the fundamentals of Nursing, to take the Certified Nursing Assistant Testing without completion of a Nurse Aide Training Program. There was no timeframe given on the August 7, 2003 policy. As of July 1, 2013 RNs and LPNs must take the NNAAP examination within two (2) years of completing the Fundamentals of Nursing, unless they are still attending nursing school.

Our goal is to enhance the integrity of South Carolina Nurse Aide Training programs and improve the quality of healthcare service in Medicaid Certified Nursing Facilities. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

/s/

Anthony E. Keck
Director