

## No CE required for Montana nursing license renewals in 2020 and 2021

The Montana Board of Nursing met on October 14, 2020 and as part of board action moved to waive all continuing education requirements for all licensees renewing in 2020 (“even year renewals”) and all licensees renewing in 2021 (“odd year renewals”). This applies to all medication aide IIs, LPNs, RNs, and APRNs licensed in Montana.

The Board made this decision in recognition of the difficulties obtaining continuing education due to the current pandemic. While there will be no continuing education (CE) requirements to renew and therefore no audit of CE after renewal, the Board did recognize there is value in education being offered by employers and other organizations.

While not required, please note that there are 15.0 free contact hours available through the Board website (<http://nurse.mt.gov/> under Continuing Education tab) on Board-specific topics. There are also excellent COVID-related modules being offered for free at the following websites:

- <https://catalog.icrnsncsbn.org/> The National Council of State Boards of Nursing offers courses on epidemiology/PPE, COVID-19 nursing care, basic law and ethics for nurses during COVID-19 and COVID-19 credible information, hoaxes and the media.
- <https://www.nursingworld.org/continuing-education/anas-covid-19-self-care-package-for-nurses/> The American Nurses Association is offering a COVID-19 self-care package for nurses, which includes topics of nursing ethics, moral resilience, dealing with fatigue, promoting emotional and mental wellbeing, and a nurse’s guide to preventing compassion fatigue, moral distress, and burnout

Again, no CE will be required for those licensees who renew in 2020 and 2021. The above education is mentioned only to assist you in providing safe patient care and is not a requirement for license renewal.

For nurses with questions or concerns about substance use disorder or the impact of mental health or physician health concerns on one’s ability to practice safely, please reach out to the Montana Professional Assistance Program, <http://www.montanaprofessionalassistance.org/> or call 406-245-4300