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ANATP/BNATP Monthly Update May 2022

1. On July 1, 2022, there will no longer be an option to register for a paper-based certification exam. The passing rates on the paper-based exam continue to decline compared to computer-based testing. We will only offer the paper-based exam in cases of legal accommodation in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Programs with cluster scores below goals and a first-time pass rate below 70% will be denied applications for new programs (new locations or hybrid).
3. A CNA Apprentice program (CNA-A) has been created, funded, and will begin a pilot demonstration on/about July 1st or sooner. IDPH will pay for the tuition for select CNA-A students through college-based BNATPs in partnership with long-term care facilities. Only college-based BNATPs are eligible to participate at this time as well as long-term care facilities. ***No other facilities or BNATPs are eligible. There are no waivers or exceptions, so do not request inclusion if you are not in one of these two categories.***

Information below is from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) and I am placing the information here as a courtesy to them. This is great news for CNAs who will be rewarded financially for remaining in the profession. Any specific questions about this program should be directed to HFS.



A critical piece of the nursing home rate reform legislation that the Illinois General Assembly passed this spring is Medicaid funding to support a new wage scale for CNAs that will increase wages by as much as \$8 per hour, depending on a worker's role and length of service in nursing homes. For a CNA working 2,000 hours, the wage scale could amount to between \$3,000 and \$16,000 per year in added wages, as compared to entry-level wages.

The wage scale is optional for nursing homes, but the Medicaid program will repay nursing homes for its share of the cost. For some nursing homes, Medicaid will fund virtually the entire cost of the scale. The wage scale is structured to ensure that CNAs are rewarded for their experience in the vital role of caring for Illinois seniors, with an increase for each year of their experience in Illinois nursing homes.



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For those with at least one year of experience, their wage will increase by at least \$1.50 per hour, and Medicaid will pay its share of that \$1.50 increase. The wage increase goes up by \$1 for each year of experience, so those with three years of experience would see a \$3.50 per hour increase in their wages, topping out at a \$6.50 per hour increase for those with six or more years of experience.

The legislation also allows for a \$1.50 per hour wage increase to accompany qualifying promotions, which is in addition to the experience-based wage increases. Medicaid will fund its share of this increase, too, up to 10-15% of nursing home CNAs.

The nursing home rate reform legislation is awaiting the Governor's signature and is due to take effect July 1.

As always, do not hesitate to call or email with questions.

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