



ANATP/BNATP Monthly Update July 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 (FTPR) below 70% will be denied applications for new programs (new locations or hybrid). Programs that cannot increase the FTPR within two years will be **revoked**. If you are providing the minimum hours requirement of 80/40, you may have to increase your hours of instruction to support students in being more successful on the certification exam.
3. Please note that I do not “approve” master schedules. I review them briefly for any obvious errors. If there is something questionable, I send them back for revision. Otherwise, you will receive a thank you email acknowledging receipt. I receive over 2500 schedules a year and approximately 600 revisions. I cannot look at every detail of your schedule. If one of the Education Coordinators (Beth or Tabitha) find an error on your schedule, please do not call or email me that “You already approved it.” If there is an error found during a monitoring visit, correct that error as directed and ensure that future schedules do not contain the same errors.
4. New instructors will no longer be entered with a program code. You will no longer have to track which instructors are assigned to a specific program code.
5. Issues we are finding on monitoring visits:
 - a. Hours counted are consistently wrong. If, for example, you have a class from 0900-1500 and there are two fifteen-minute breaks and one thirty-minute lunch, you must subtract those breaks for total hours counted of 5 hours. (Six hours from 9-3 minus the one hour of breaks). On your calendar pages, there must be enough theory days that, when multiplied by the hours counted, add up to your total theory hours. Using the example above, there would have to be 16 theory days (5 hours x 16=80) if you are providing only 80 theory/lab hours.
 - b. Lying about breaks. This is not only unprofessional, but also disturbing that anyone thinks this is appropriate. If you provide four hours of class time and state that there are no breaks during those four hours, I will not believe you. No student can sit through four hours of class without a break. Subtract your break times and adjust your schedule accordingly.



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- c. Not providing a minimum of 80 hours of theory or a minimum of 40 hours of clinical.
- d. Providing hybrid courses without IDPH approval of a hybrid course or providing simulated clinicals. This will result in probationary status for your program and possible revocation of program approval.
- e. Dismissing early. Letting students out of class early jeopardizes the hours of instruction that they must have. If you are only providing the minimum hours requirement, the students will not be eligible to take the certification exam.

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.

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.



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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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