The Baromedical Nurses Association Certification Board (BNACB) and Baromedical Nurses Association (BNA) board have heard your requests to approve some of the physician education (CME) hours that you all have received in hyperbaric medicine. This decision was discussed with both boards, considering the pros and cons of allowing CME hours approved toward your nursing recertification requirements.

The designation of Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse (CHRN), Advanced Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse (ACHRN) and Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse Clinician (CHRNC) is awarded to those able to master physical principles of key gas laws and care of individuals with hyperbaric referable indications. Certification signifies commitment to nursing excellence in delivery of care to patients in the hyperbaric environment. As this is not an entry level designation for nurses, it is expected CHRNs will continue to grow professionally through continuing education both specific to hyperbaric and nursing practice. While other practitioners in the hyperbaric community have standards of practice and continued commitment to learning and certification, the CHRN is specific for nurses.

It is required for the CHRN, ACHRN and CHRNC to dedicate time and effort to maintain certification. A minimum of 40 hours of continuing education (20 hours hyperbaric-specific and 20 general hours) for CHRN; ACHRN and CHRNC 60 hours (30 hours hyperbaric specific and 30 general hours) is required over a four-year period to be able to use hyperbaric nursing credentials while maintaining licensure to practice nursing in any capacity. These two requirements to maintain nursing license and nursing certification require nursing continuing education hours or working in a nursing capacity to remain current in practice. State Boards of Nursing have their own unique polices on accepting CME for renewal of RN License.

Our colleagues in hyperbaric environment earn continuing education to enhance their practice as Physicians, Hyperbaric Technicians, Respiratory Therapists and others. Some of these continuing education hours have been designated as CME hours. Nurses earn continuing nursing education (CNE) hours to remain current and competent in practice.

While there are some CME activities in hyperbaric with similar value to physicians, nurses and technicians, they are not all equal and do not distinguish or identify the nursing profession. To provide optimal education experience for CHRN, it is reasonable to allow some CME hours to meet CHRN, ACHRN and CHRNC requirements.

The BNACB decision and the BNA Board maintain the majority of continuing education must be CNE.

As of March 1st, 2018 a maximum CME of five Category A hours will be accepted in a four-year CHRN certification renewal period. A maximum of 10 Category A CME hours will be accepted for ACHRN and CHRNC. Category A hours must be specific to hyperbaric medicine, and you must submit certificates of attendance for any credit toward your recertification.

The NBDHMT website notes Category A credit hours will be given to committee members who participate in administrative leadership positions within NFPA/ASME/PVHO or those who serve on the UHMS Facility Accreditation Survey Team. These activities will receive a maximum of 9 Category A hours. The BNACB will also accept and follow these NBDHMT guidelines. Please note you must show proof of attendance at those meetings in order to get approval for those hours.

We encourage all committees or organizations presenting hyperbaric related education to contact the BNA education committee, identified on the BNA website. They will assist you in submitting paperwork
so nursing Category A hours can be granted. Please visit the hyperbaricnurses.org website for further information.

Sincerely

Baromedical Nurses Association Certification Board

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