



525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)

## BNATP Monthly Update August 2020

1. **Please do not send emails to** both the [ross.carey-walden@illinois.gov](mailto:ross.carey-walden@illinois.gov) and the [dph.bnatp@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.bnatp@illinois.gov) addresses. I monitor both inboxes!
2. **Please include your program number on all emails regardless of the reason for your email!**
3. **Please read and heed 1 and 2 above!**
4. If you hire an instructor based on education (i.e., not taking a Train the Trainer program) they **must** have four (4) CEUs or equivalent in Alzheimer's/related dementias before an instructor code is issued. **This is consistently being overlooked.** Work with Alzheimer's patients/residents, etc. does not meet the requirement. Certified Dementia Practitioners (CDP) who have not identified themselves to the NCCDP as a retired nurse are not required to take additional CEUs as the NCCDP requires 10 CEUs for continued membership.
5. There have been many questions about whether the Temporary Nursing Assistants (TNA) would be allowed to become certified as a CNA. The answer is: NO! Sixteen hours of hands-on/on-the-job training does not prepare them in the same way that a student completing 120 hours or more in a BNATP program. Federal regulations require a minimum of 75 hours of education to become certified. Illinois administrative rules require 120 hours. We are researching potentially giving the TNAs some type of credit of no more than 16 hours toward the application for a BNATP. Suggestions are welcome!
6. The previous allowance that a CNA student can work for greater than 120 days as an aide before certification has been rescinded. A CNA student can work for up to 120 days before s/he must become certified.
7. Do not recruit students and create master schedules if your clinical partners have not agreed to allowing students into their facilities.
8. Before completing your Master Schedule, contact your clinical partners to ensure they will be accepting students. If they are not, contact nursing homes,



hospitals, and assisted/supportive living facilities in the area with whom you are not currently contracted to see if they will allow students.

9. Nursing assistant students are considered by the CDC and IDPH (Department) to be healthcare employees, not visitors. It is up to the individual facilities to determine their policy on admission of students and under what conditions. Facilities must determine what personnel are considered non-essential.
10. Regardless of the number of theory, lab, and clinical hours for which your program was approved, the minimum of 80 hours of theory/lab and 40 hours of clinicals may be provided until this guidance is rescinded. Additional permission is not required. Note the hours you are providing on your Master Schedules.
11. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing has stated that up to 50% of a student's clinical time can be satisfied by a thorough clinical simulation including, but not limited to, discussion of a scenario and critical thinking skills. BNATPs are allowed to provide up to 20 hours of clinical time in simulation. The remaining 20 hours must be face-to-face in a facility with patients/residents.  
***There is no exception to this and no waiver. If your clinical partners are not allowing students, do not schedule a class.***
12. Students in a BNATP are allowed to work as a nursing assistant in a long-term care facility, hospital or assisted/supportive living facility before certification. Volunteer hours will suffice with documentation from the facility that the student performed nursing or nursing-related duties under the supervision of a nurse for the specific number of hours. BNATPs do not submit this to the Department but must keep the documentation with the students' academic records. This work is limited to 120 days, after which the student must become certified in order to continue in a patient care role. Students who work at least 20 hours (***after*** the BNATP has provided at least 20 hours of simulated clinicals) can use this work time as clinical time if no other clinical experience can be obtained. The facility and the BNATP must have an agreement in place and documentation from the facility must be obtained to show the required work hours. BNATPs can consider the clinical time fulfilled and can enter the students on a roster to take the certification exam. Work in a long-term care facility as a Resident Attendant in facilities with an approved Resident Attendant Program would count toward fulfilling clinical hours. Work as a Temporary Nursing Assistant (TNA) would count toward fulfilling clinical hours as long as the BNATP is provided with the training documentation given to the TNA.



13. All programs have permission to conduct training in an online environment without approval for a hybrid program through the end of 2020. Please do not apply for a hybrid program until after December 31, 2020 and only if you plan to continue online education in the future. Remember that for vocational programs, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) must approve your online program. Currently the IBHE has approved all programs to move into an online format through December 31, 2020. ***Applications for hybrid programs are not being accepted until 2021.***
14. Most testing centers are open with limited capacity due to social distancing requirements. There is also a new program whereby students who meet certain technical/equipment requirements can take the certification at home. These are proctored by colleges. If you are a community college and interested in proctoring the test at home program, contact Southern Illinois University Carbondale at [inat@siu.edu](mailto:inat@siu.edu).
15. The end date on a roster is the actual date that the student completed the program. It is possible that you may have only one student on a roster. Due to clinical constraints some students may finish before others in the same clinical group. Remember that you are required to enter the student into the roster within 30 days of program completion. If you enter other dates, it may appear that you are not in compliance with this requirement. You are also required to enter the program start and end dates into the Health Care Worker Registry (HCWR).
16. Until a vaccine is available for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2), facilities may require that students are screened and/or tested for the virus. BNATPs will have to consider the cost of these tests in future tuition costs. Private insurers must cover the cost of COVID-19 testing, but only if there is known exposure or the insured is symptomatic.
17. BNATPs may consider deferment of clinical hours until a later date, but this must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Department. Continually admitting students without providing for clinical hours will not be approved. Secondary programs must take into consideration senior students who will be graduating at the end of the BNATP and give priority for these students to complete clinical experiences before graduation if the clinical partners limit the number of students allowed into a facility. *Under no circumstances will a*



---

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)

*student be considered to have successfully completed the BNATP until ALL requirements have been met. Students who have not completed the BNATP will not be able to take the certification exam.*

Randy Carey-Walden, RN, MSN, CCM  
Public Service Administrator  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
Training and Technical Support  
525 W. Jefferson St. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761  
Phone: 217.785.5569  
Fax: 217.557.3363  
[ross.carey-walden@illinois.gov](mailto:ross.carey-walden@illinois.gov)