

To: Accredited PTAP Programs, Applicant PTAP Programs, and Interested Programs

From: Sheryl Cosme DNP, RN-BC  
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Practice Transitions Accreditation Program® and Nursing Skills Competency Program

Re: COVID-19 and Licensure

Date: May 21, 2020

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## Situation

Over the last few weeks, the ANCC PTAP team has received many inquiries regarding licensure delays and allowing Graduate Nurses or uncertified APRN's to participate in accredited Nursing Residency or APRN Fellowship programs.

The Commission on Accreditation in Practice Transition Programs (COA-PTP) has reviewed the concerns.

## Background

The 2020 PTAP definitions require that participants of a RN Residency or APRN Fellowship program be licensed and certified (if applicable).

2020 Manual definitions:

**RN Residency:** Planned, comprehensive program through which **currently licensed RNs** with less than 12 months experience can demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that meet the **standards of practice** defined by a professional society or association or the applicant organization. The program must be at least 6 months in length, encompassing organizational **orientation**, practice-based experience, and supplemental activities to promote **nursing professional development**. All RNs (or international equivalent) who have graduated from an accredited school of nursing are eligible (associate's degree, diploma, baccalaureate degree, or master's degree).

**APRN Fellowship:** Planned, comprehensive program through which **currently licensed and certified** (or international equivalent) **advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)** can demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to meet the standards of practice defined by a professional society or association or the applicant organization. The program may include organizational orientation

and must include practice-based experience and supplemental activities to promote nursing professional development.

### **Action**

- Due to COVID-19 the COA-PTP has vote to provide a safe harbor (*until October 1, 2020*) allowing programs to grant entry of graduate nurses or uncertified APRNs to participate accredited programs while maintaining compliance with the ANCC PTAP standards.
- The COA-PTP requests that all accredited programs comply with all state rules and regulations related to licensure.
- The COA-PTP will be monitoring the current state of licensing and certification delay. If needed they may extend this safe harbor timeframe.
- At this time, the PTAP team is not requiring any additional information from programs related to their current COVID action plans based on this temporary modification.

If you have any questions please reach out to Sheri at [sheryl.cosme@ana.org](mailto:sheryl.cosme@ana.org).

