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a brief from the ASORN Board of Directors

Provider Reaccreditation News

ASORN was recently notified of the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation's (ANCC) decision to grant its Provider Unit reaccreditation for the maximum term of six years.

The reaccreditation visit took place at the home office of ASORN in San Francisco, California on December 1-2, 2008. A two member surveyor team from ANCC met onsite with the Provider Unit Chair, Barbara Ann Harmer, RN, BSN, MHA, the Executive Director, Lisa Brown and the Client Services Coordinator, Megan Murphy. The survey team reviewed not only detailed files which contained documentation demonstrating continued compliance with the ANCC standards but also held conference calls with many of the lead nurse planners who are actively involved with the Provider Unit Chair in the design of ASORN's educational activities and offerings.

Some of the strengths of the Provider Unit that were recognized:

- ASORN has an excellent pool of content experts/speakers.
- Recognition that ASORN's educational programs are recognized for their high quality and content.
- ASORN's educational programs cover diverse topics in ophthalmic nursing as well as topics in general nursing that relate to the ophthalmic nursing specialty.

The Accreditation Program of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) recognizes organizations that offer excellent continuing education to nurses. More than 250 organizations held accredited status from ANCC in 2007. ANCC's Accreditation Program contributes to healthcare quality by providing a voluntary peer review process that defines standards for high performance in continuing nursing education and measures adherence to those standards for organizations that elect to apply for accreditation.

To fully appreciate the strength of this achievement, we share the following quote from the ANCC's October 18, 2008 *Accreditation E-news Brief*.

"It is not the norm to earn a six year accreditation- as most organizations are out of compliance in numerous ways. The applicants can best be viewed as reaching for excellence in continuing nursing education through a continuous self-evaluation process. In itself, the continuous journey toward excellence is the hallmark of a successful organization, and all applicant

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organizations are high performers who seek excellence in all that they do.

During fiscal years 2005 through spring 2008, eligible applicants' accreditation statistics (those organizations reapplying) are as follows:

*33% of applicants received 6 years accreditation
67% of applicants received 4 years accreditation"*

Congratulations to all who contributed to this achievement!

Regards,

Barbara Ann Harmer, RN, MSN, MHA
Provider Unit Director
Communicate with Barbara: consultmacinc@aol.com

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