MEMORANDUM

March 31, 2015

To: Chief Executive Officers, Healthcare Institutions
Chief Nursing Officers, Healthcare Institutions
Chief Nurse Administrators, CCNE-Affiliated Baccalaureate & Graduate Nursing Programs
Nurse Residency Program Coordinators, Healthcare Institutions
CCNE On-Site Evaluators
Accrediting Agencies
Selected Federal Agencies
National Nursing Organizations
State Boards of Nursing
Other Interested Parties

From: Dr. Lauren Goodloe, Chair
CCNE Standards Committee for Nurse Residency Programs

Re: CCNE Call for Comments: Proposed Standards for Accreditation of Entry-to-Practice Nurse Residency Programs

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is pleased to announce that the Standards Committee charged with reviewing the accreditation standards for nurse residency programs has completed its draft of the proposed Standards for Accreditation of Entry-to-Practice Nurse Residency Programs. The Standards Committee is now seeking and considering input from the CCNE community of interest regarding these proposed standards revisions.

This CCNE Call for Comments invites all interested parties, including healthcare institution and nurse residency program administrators, baccalaureate and graduate program administrators, faculty, practitioners, agency representatives, employers, residents, students, and others with an interest in the preparation of competent nurses, to review the proposed standards and to offer comments and/or suggest revisions.

Among the most substantive of the proposed changes are:

- Expanding the scope of accreditation to include nurse residency programs in all care settings. When developing revisions, the Standards Committee made appropriate adjustments throughout to address terminology as well as nursing activities in the practice settings.

- Expanding the scope of accreditation to include nurse residency programs serving all newly licensed residents.

- Requiring healthcare organizations seeking accreditation of nurse residency programs serving nurses prepared with an associate degree in nursing (ADN) to implement an academic progression policy requiring ADN-prepared residents to obtain a baccalaureate or graduate degree in nursing within a specific period of time (Standard II, Key Element II-C).
• Expanding the focus of Standard I from “Program Quality: Program Faculty” to “Program Quality: Program Delivery,” while streamlining Standard II (Program Quality: Institutional Commitment and Resources).

• Reorganizing Standard III (Program Quality: Curriculum) from three sections to two: 1) Management and Delivery of Quality Patient Care, and 2) Professional Role and Leadership.

• Clarifying Standard IV (Program Quality: Program Effectiveness) so as to more clearly present expectations for program evaluation.

• Adding key elements that specifically address those program outcomes most common to residency programs: completion, retention, and satisfaction (Standard IV).

• Adding a key element requiring that programs develop outcomes (other than completion, retention, and satisfaction) that are in keeping with the organization’s mission, goals, and expected outcomes (Standard IV).

CCNE recognizes that the proposal to expand the scope of accreditation to include residency programs serving ADN-prepared residents is a significant change, as the current CCNE standards focus solely on residency programs serving baccalaureate and master’s-entry-to-practice residents. This proposal was made after much reflection and consultation with nurse leaders around the country, and it supports Recommendation 3 in The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health (IOM Report) (Institute of Medicine, 2010), which states:

State boards of nursing, accrediting bodies, the federal government, and health care organizations should take actions to support nurses’ completion of a transition-to-practice (nurse residency) after they have completed a prelicensure degree program. (p. 280)

To review an electronic version of the Proposed Standards (both clean and tracked copies are available), please go to http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation/proposed-revisions.

Comments may be submitted via:
• an online survey at https://fs9.formsite.com/ccne/form29/index.html (this survey will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete)
• email at CCNEStandards@aacn.nche.edu

The Call for Comments period will remain open until April 24, 2015.

Comments may be directed at the standards in their entirety or at any individual standard or key element. Please be specific in offering your comments, including specific language you would like to see incorporated, deleted, or amended in the Standards.

Final approval of the standards rests with the CCNE Board of Commissioners. The composition of the Board is available at http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation/about/board-of-commissioners.

The CCNE Standards Committee for Nurse Residency Programs looks forward to receiving and considering your comments as part of the revision process. The
membership of the Standards Committee for Nurse Residency Programs is accessible on the CCNE website at http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation/about/committees-and-task-forces/standards.

If you have any questions about the standards revision process, please contact Benjamin Murray, CCNE Director of Accreditation Services, at 202-887-6791 x275 or bmurray@aacn.nche.edu.