



November 2, 2009

Dear Nurse Aide Training Program Coordinator:

The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) has contracted with Prometric since 2005 to develop and administer the federally mandated Nurse Aide/Nursing Assistant Competency Examination. As a part of their examination development, Prometric conducts periodic job analyses to validate examination content. In addition, Prometric holds National Examination Council (NEC) meetings focused on test development activities to ensure the currency of their nurse aide examinations. New Mexico was represented at recent NEC meetings by a New Mexico RN who has served as a subject matter expert and participated in item writing and review for the knowledge test.

As a result of these activities, both the knowledge and clinical skills examinations administered in New Mexico are being updated. The refreshed examinations will be administered beginning with testing in January 2010. The most important change is that two skills that are currently included in the training curriculum, foot care and ambulation, are being added to the clinical skills examination.

The foot care skill will be performed on one foot on an actor who is sitting in a chair, and the ambulation skill will include walking an actor approximately 20 steps using a gait belt. There are other minor modifications in the currently tested clinical skills, such as:

- the addition of a checkpoint to both of the range of motion skills addressing that the exercise is performed on the correct side
- the addition of checkpoints addressing the use of gloves in specific skills (as required for Standard Precautions)
- an increase in time for friction during handwashing from 10 to 15 seconds, for consistency with the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) standards

Prometric's newly-revised candidate information bulletin, including a complete outline of the knowledge examination content and an overview of the clinical skills exam, is available at www.prometric.com/nurseaide/NM.HTM . Detailed clinical skills examination checklists are available in a separate document at the same webpage. Instructors are encouraged to review the updated clinical skills checklists.

Prometric is offering web conference "Question and Answer" sessions to provide training program instructors an opportunity to ask questions about the examination updates. The date and times for these workshops are:

Friday, November 20, 2009 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM MT
Monday, November 30, 2009 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM MT

To participate in either one of these web conference sessions, the instructor will be required to dial-in to the conference call telephone number for the audio portion of the session and join the web portion via the internet to view any supporting documentation. Note: any written materials utilized during these sessions will also be available on the web for those instructors who are unable to participate during one of the two sessions provided.

Preregistration by Monday, November 16, 2009 is required in order to participate.
To preregister, the instructor must:

- send an email to: newmexicocna@prometric.com
- title the subject line of the email as "Instructor Workshop" and indicate the date of the workshop that will be attended.
- include in the body of the email the instructor's name, email address and the name of the training program.

An email with the toll-free dial-in telephone number and a link to access the web portion of the information session will be sent to all preregistered instructors the day before the requested workshop. Please check your spam filter before contacting Prometric if you don't receive the email on the expected day.

Thank you for your continued service as an instructor for aspiring nurse aides in the State.

Thank you,

New Mexico Client Services Management Team