

SGNA Approver Unit Termination

Questions and Answers

Why is SGNA terminating the Approver Unit?

- The SGNA Board of Directors has the responsibility to evaluate its programs for continued sustainability and relevancy as an organization. This includes examining member services such as the SGNA Approver Unit.
- There has been a significant decrease in SGNA Approver Unit submissions over the past few years (over 50%). Other specialty nursing associations are seeing this trend as well.
- Revenues collected by the Approver Unit have been significantly smaller than the costs associated with maintaining the SGNA Approver Unit. With the number of program submissions decreasing, revenues have continued to decrease as well, making the SGNA Approver Unit cost prohibitive.
- Given the trends, the decision was made by the SGNA Board of Directors to voluntarily terminate the SGNA Approver Unit due to lower use and the high cost to maintain it. Eliminating the Approver Unit will help SGNA continue to offer high quality educational activities and focus on other strategic initiatives that benefit all members.

How will this affect my program which has already been approved?

- As indicated on all final approval letters, programs approved by the SGNA Approver Unit may be repeated for two years from the date of approval. Continue to retain your records for 6 years as required by the ANCC.
- Post activity follow up is still required for approved programs.
- Post activity and speaker updates can be submitted via email to info@sgna.org

How will I get GI specific contact hours?

- The American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCGN) will continue to review programs approved or provided by other accredited organizations for GI specific recognition. The instructions and fee structure information can be found on the ABCGN website. <https://www.abcgcn.org/Resources/GI-Specific-Hours-Approval>

How can Regions obtain the six contact hours that are required for them to retain their charter?

- Regions have options available to them to continue to have educational events to meet this requirement.
 - Work with their facility's Professional Development (Staff Development) department to obtain nursing contact hours.
 - Apply to another ANCC Approver Unit for approving contact hours. A full list is on the ANCC website. Most approver units are part of state nursing organizations, which will approve programs held in other states. The Region decides which option is most feasible for them.

- Consider reaching out to the Georgia Nurses Association (GNA). SGNA contacted the GNA on your behalf and they are looking forward to working with SGNA regional members.
- Use SGNA webinars that have contact hours already approved.
- Refer to the *Gastroenterology Nursing* journal articles for contact hours. Many articles have contact hours available.

What are the steps to termination?

- SGNA Regional leaders, Regional Coordinators, and individual activity applicants (for years 2016, 2017) were notified via email on January 25, 2018 after the decision was made to terminate the Approver Unit. Termination information is also included on the CE Approver landing page.
- The Approver Unit will accept program submissions only until **April 20, 2018**.
 - No submissions will be accepted after April 20, 2018.
 - No exceptions will be made.
- The Approver Unit will officially cease on **June 1, 2018**.
 - Post activity reports and speaker updates will continue to be accepted via email.
- The Nurse Peer Review Leader, Cynthia Friis, can assist members with their transition plan until June 1, 2018. Once termination is complete, SGNA can no longer act in this capacity.