

# Military Training Network



## MTN Training Bulletin

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**From:** LINDA HOGAN, Lt Col, USAF, NC, CFN  
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**Attention:** ACLS and Pals Program Directors and Program Administrators

**Subject:** Changes to Nurse and Physician CE Credit for ACLS and PALS Courses

### 1. Regarding Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) Contact Hours:

- In May 2009, The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) notified all their accredited organizations that, effective 1 June 2011, contact hours cannot be awarded for ACLS and PALS renewal. This ruling is based on the rationale that these courses don't change often or significantly. Therefore, renewal of certification is meant to validate previously obtained knowledge, not to augment that knowledge. The intent is that you should not be awarded continuing education credit for the same activity more than once.

- Currently MTN issues continuing nurse education credit (CNE) to initial and renewing students who successfully complete the 2-day ACLS and PALS provider courses. MTN anticipates no change with the FY10 re-affiliation period (1 Oct 2009 - 30 Sept 2010). ANCC's policy, however, will affect FY11 courses within the MTN.

- MTN is in the process of developing a plan to meet the FY11 changeover.

### 2. Regarding Continuing Medical Education *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>(TM)</sup>:

- Following ANCC's ruling, the USUHS Office of Continuing Education for Health Professionals (CHE), MTN's accredited provider of CE, asked AMA for clarification on physician CME for ACLS and PALS courses. Per AMA, "courses such as ACLS and PALS are eligible to be designated for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>(TM)</sup>. However, physicians should not be awarded *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>(TM)</sup> more than once for the same activity unless there has been a substantial change in content."

- To align with the timetable of other Services, effective 1 Aug 09, only those members attending for the first time will be allowed to receive *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>(TM)</sup>. This means true and accurate documentation on ACLS and PALS post course reports will be essential.

3. MTN will continue to monitor for significant changes in AHA course curriculum and/or ANCC and AMA policies and revisit as needed. We appreciate your cooperation as this change is implemented. Contact MTN at 301-295-0964 or DSN 295-0964 for questions.