

## Item D.5.

Date: July 6, 2010

FR: Nancy Spector, PhD, RN, Director of Regulatory Innovations

RE: States with Core Curricula

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**Background:**

Because core curricula are being developed in some states, in 2007 the NCSBN Board of Directors requested that I survey the Boards of Nursing to find out how prevalent these curricula are and to learn about the Boards' experiences with them. All education consultants were queried, and 37 Boards responded to the question. This question was also discussed on the October 10, 2007, education conference call. For the purposes of the survey and conference call discussion, a core curriculum was defined as:

“Any curriculum that is developed by a group of programs with some agreed upon threads and content. The Board



must review it. While many states seem happy with these core curricula, at least one state (Montana) is having major problems with it. Two states (Colorado and Kansas) indicated that the bi-level programs create confusion in

**Generic RN** – These RN programs admit the prelicensure student who does not already have a nursing diploma, associate degree in nursing or a bachelor’s degree in another field. The students may enter these programs in the freshman year and matriculate through the program, or they may transfer in after obtaining their prerequisites. The graduates receive a bachelor of science in nursing degree and may apply for licensure and take the NCLEX-RN.

**One-Plus-One (Ladder Programs)** – These programs include 2 application processes, one for the PN program and one for the RN program. The first level only has PN content, and the student must obtain a PN license before continuing in the RN program. Graduates of the RN program may apply for RN licensure and take the NCLEX-RN.

**PN Exit Option** – In the bi-level programs there is one application process for the PN and RN program. Therefore, a PN exit option is when students opt out of the RN program at a designated time in the curriculum. At this point they may apply for licensure and take the NCLEX-PN.

**PN to BSN** –