

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Pharmacotherapeutic Contact Hours For Individual Activity Applicants (Program Approval)

Accreditation:

Individual Activity Applicants may plan activities that provide Pharmacotherapeutic Contact Hours. The Nurse Planner is responsible for delineating the number of contact hours being planned. The content plan must be reviewed and approved by AACN Program Approval.

Pharmacotherapeutic contact hours approved by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) meet the definitions provided by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC). These contact hours may meet the standards for states and certifying bodies for licensure and/or certification renewal. All learners should consult their state board or credentialing organization before submitting certificates.

Note for AACN Chapters: Pharmacotherapeutic credit cannot be awarded for activities that only award CERPs.

Requirements:

- Content must specifically address pharmacotherapeutics (see below).
- Presenter(s) must have content expertise in pharmacology, but do *not* need to be a prescriber.
- Contact hours are calculated on a 60-minute hour, and the number of pharmacotherapeutic contact hours is delineated based on the time dedicated to pharmacotherapeutic content.
 - Example: A 60-minute session with 15 minutes of pharmacology content = 1 contact hour, including 0.25 pharmacotherapeutic contact hours.

Pharmacotherapeutics:

- Pharmacotherapeutics is the application of pharmacological information together with the knowledge of the disease for its prevention, mitigation, or cure.
- Pharmacotherapeutic content may include, but is not limited to:
 - Drug-specific information
 - Pharmacokinetics (drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion)
 - Pharmacodynamics (drug effects on the body)
 - Therapeutic effects and expected outcomes of medications
 - Monitoring medication therapy: patient response, therapeutic targets, lab monitoring, and adjusting regimens
 - Toxicology and recognition/management of overdose or toxicity
 - Safe prescribing practices and methodologies: dose calculations, route, frequency, and administration techniques.
 - Regulations, regulatory requirements, guidelines, and prescribing laws relevant to pharmacologic practice
 - Patient and healthcare system considerations: risk/benefit, insurance, cost, formulary
- The purpose of all education that provides pharmacotherapeutic credit is to connect the science of pharmacology to the practice of nursing to improve patient outcomes.
- The incidental mention of drugs or pharmacological treatment does not qualify as pharmacotherapeutics.