

October 13, 2005

Maryann Alexander, PhD, RN
Nursing Act Coordinator
Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, Suite 9-300
Chicago, IL 60601

SENT BY EMAIL and EXPRESS MAIL

Dear Dr. Alexander:

CGFNS has reviewed the document "License Regulations-Internationally Educated Nurses" posted on the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation/Division of Professional Regulation website. There are several statements made in the document regarding the current CGFNS Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) Healthcare Profession & Science Course-by-Course Report requirement for internationally-educated nurses that must be addressed.

Paragraph two under the heading "CES Report" reads as follows:

"If you have already gone through the CGFNS process to take the exam and have submitted your transcripts from the school in which you have graduated from, CGFNS should be able to use that information to help process your CES Report at no extra charge. However, refunds on the CGFNS exam will not be given."

Although documentation received as part of the Certification Program may be transferable to the CES, this does not ensure that the current program's documentation requirements will be met. CGFNS may be required, and reserves the right, to contact the applicant's school in order to request clarification or additional information on the applicant's professional program. In addition, in order to prepare a CES Report, registration/licensure documentation also differs between what is required for the Certification Program, and for the CES. Thus, the statement "*CGFNS should be able to use that information to help process your CES Report*" is misleading and may cause misinterpretation on the nurse's part that all transcript documentation already received will be accepted and is sufficient for the CES.

In addition, please note that the current fee for the CES Healthcare Profession & Science Course-by-Course Report is \$225.00. The current fee for initial applicants of the CGFNS Certification Program is \$295.00. This fee includes the \$45.00 fee for the Official CGFNS Study Guide, which is shipped to the applicant upon receipt of the completed application form and full payment.

For those applicants who have applied for the CGFNS Certification Program but have never taken the Qualifying Exam, CGFNS will transfer the appropriate monies towards a CES application, minus the \$45.00 fee for the CGFNS Study Guide ONLY after the applicant has submitted a completed application form for the CES, followed by a request to cancel the Certification Program application in writing.

For those applicants who have already sat for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam, they must submit a completed application form and the full current \$225.00 fee to begin the application process for a CES Healthcare Profession & Science Course-by-Course Report.

Your immediate assistance in amending the above-mentioned document to reflect CGFNS' current policy would be highly appreciated.

Please contact me at (215) 222-8454 ext 227 or drichardson@cgfns.org, or contact Silvia Pomponi, Legislative & Regulatory Liaison Specialist at (215) 222-8454 ext 276 or spomponi@cgfns.org with any questions related to this letter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Rae Richardson".

Donna Rae Richardson, JD, RN
CGFNS Director of Advocacy & Quality Assurance

cc: Barbara Nichols, DHL, MS, RN, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer
Daisy Alford-Smith, PhD, RN, FAAN, Chief Operating Officer

DRR/BN/DAS/sp