

Nursing Continuing Professional Development Program Fall 2024 & Spring 2025





Accreditation: Thibodaux Regional Health System School of Nursing at Nicholls State University CNE Program is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Approval: Thibodaux Regional Health System School of Nursing at Nicholls State University – NCPD Program is approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) (Provider Number 8) for re-licensure requirements.



Nursing Continuing Professional Development Program Activity Calendar, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19, 2024, PAIN MANAGEMENT: UTILIZING TRADITIONAL AND ADVANCED INTERVENTIONS AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE QUALITY PAIN CARE

LocationNicholls State University Betsy C. Ayo Hall	- Nirmala Yalamanchili Donepudi Auditorium
Networking	
Presentation time	
Credit	

TUESDAY, OCT. 15, 2024, PEDIATRIC AND SCHOOL NURSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: VISION SCREENING, VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, ACES, CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

LocationNicholls State University Betsy C. Ayo Hall - Nir	mala Yalamanchili Donepudi Auditorium
Networking	
Presentation time	8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Credit	5 contact hours

THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 2024, EXAMINING THE IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS, AND CASE MANAGEMENT IN HEALTHCARE

Location	Virtual Event via Zoom
Networking	8:15 – 8:45 a.m.
Presentation time	
Credit	5 contact hours

THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 2025, ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL AND CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE SPECIALTIES OF PODIATRY, OTOLARYNGOLOGY, ONCOLOGY, CARDIOLOGY

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LocationNicholls State University Betsy C. Ayo Hall - Nirmala	Yalamanchili Donepudi Auditorium
Networking	
Presentation time	
Credit	

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025, PHARMACOLOGY FOR THE ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE

LocationNicholls State University Betsy C. Ayo Hall - Nirm	ala Yalamanchili Donepudi Auditorium
Networking	
Presentation time	8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Credit	6 contact hours.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025, CARING FOR THE PATIENT WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE OR RELATED DEMENTIA AND END OF LIFE CARE

Location	Virtual Event via Zoom
Networking	
Presentation time	8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Credit	5 contact hours.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Online registration for all NCPDP activities is available through Eventbrite using the QR code.





Pain Management: Utilizing Traditional and Advanced Interventions and Procedures to Ensure Quality Pain Care

The CDC reports that in 2021, an estimated 20.9% of U.S. adults – around 51.6 million people- experienced chronic pain. Alarmingly, nearly two-thirds of those with chronic pain continue to suffer after one year. This data highlights the need for enhanced multimodal and multidisciplinary interventions to improve pain management and patient outcomes. Nurses play a crucial ethical role in accurately assessing pain and providing optimal and individualized care. They often utilize multimodal and interprofessional strategies to relieve pain, ensuring patients receive comprehensive and individualized treatment.

SPEAKERS:

Paige Pipsair, MSN, FNP-C, is a Family Nurse Practitioner who specializes in interventional pain management. She is certified through the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She works at The Headache and Pain Center in Gray and treats a wide range of conditions, such as lumbar pain, cervical pain, Complex regional pain syndrome, Postherpetic neuralgia, migraines, and trigeminal neuralgia.

Caroline Carroll, MD, is a Pain Management Specialist at Thibodaux Regional Health System and is a leading expert in treating various pain conditions. His experience and specialization in low back pain, neck pain, joint pain, peripheral neuropathy, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, complex regional pain syndromes, postherpetic neuralgia, and chronic post-operative pain.

Michelle Gaubert PT, DPT, Cert VRS, is a boardcertified physical therapist with a doctorate degree from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. She is an orthopedic and vestibular certified physical therapist and an expert at treating neck pain, jaw pain, and sacroiliac joint issues. Dr. Gaubert is motivated to help people get out of pain and optimize their physical performance. **Lindsay Lasseigne, MD**, is a neurosurgeon at Thibodaux Regional Health System. Dr. Lasseigne specializes in surgical treatment and management of disorders of the nervous system, including degenerative disc disease, chronic neck and back pain, radiculopathy and myelopathy, traumatic injuries and spine fractures, carpal tunnel syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and brain and spinal tumors. She has special training in minimally invasive spine surgery and managing critically ill neurological patients.

ACTIVITY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Recognize the nurses' ethical responsibility to assess and relieve pain.
- Identify the various pathologies of pain.
- Describe the treatment options for various neuromusculoskeletal pain conditions.
- Recognize the 2022 CDC clinical practice guidelines for prescribing opioids for pain.
- Identify current neurosurgical options and advancements for pain management of neurological and spinal conditions.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Location	Nicholls State University Betsy C. Ayo Hall -
	Nirmala Yalamanchili Donepudi Auditorium
Networking	
Presentation time	
Credit	
Fee	





Pediatric and School Nurse Professional Development

VISION SCREENING:

• Visual function is crucial for a child's overall health and quality of life, significantly impacting their physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development. Good vision is linked to enhanced academic performance in educational settings, as it enables children to engage more effectively with learning materials and activities. Addressing visual health can lead to better outcomes in all areas of a child's life, underscoring the importance of detecting and treating vision problems early.

VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, ACES, CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT:

- De-escalating violence in children and teens and knowing effective strategies at stages of conflict are crucial for fostering safe environments.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress are critical public health concerns. When not addressed and lacking the support of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships, toxic stress can lead to immediate and long-term negative impacts on social, emotional, and physical well-being. Recognizing these challenges and promoting supportive environments to mitigate their effects is essential.
- Studies show that professionals who interact with children often report only about half of potential incidents of abuse or neglect. This low reporting rate is primarily due to confusion regarding laws and procedures, as well as a lack of knowledge about warning signs. Enhancing training and awareness among these professionals can help improve reporting rates and better protect vulnerable children.

SPEAKERS:

Sherrard Crespo, LCSW, is a licensed clinical social worker employed with VIA LINK in the position of Director of Outreach and Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL). Her professional background is highlighted by her work with suicide education, prevention, intervention, and postvention. Crespo specializes in suicide response, crisis intervention, grief, trauma, and child abuse prevention.

Stacie Jenkins, MSN, RN, CPSO, is the Vice President of Patient Safety and Risk for the Louisiana Hospital Association Trust Funds. She brings over 29 years of healthcare experience with the majority of her expertise in healthcare risk management and quality. In her current role, she promotes risk reduction and safety and shares her knowledge and skills with school staff and nurses on how to diffuse aggressive behaviors among schoolaged children and teens.

Tammy Johnson, MPH, has implemented, directed, and trained others to run large-scale vision screening programs for more than 25 years. She began the Tennessee statewide program in 1997 while also doing research in the ophthalmology department at Vanderbilt University, partnering with the Tennessee Lions. She then worked for the Lions Clubs International Foundation for twelve years in the establishment of eighteen preschool vision screening programs throughout the US. She is now the director of program development for Plusoptix, Inc.

Dr. David Mitchell, opened Mitchell Family Eye Care and has been practicing here in Thibodaux since 2006. While their clinic sees patients of all ages, Dr. Mitchell also specializes in pediatric optometry, children's vision, and vision therapy. As a member of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) and a proud participant in the InfantSEE program, Dr. Mitchell is dedicated to early vision assessments and advanced therapeutic techniques for young patients.

Anne Troy, **PhD**, **APRN**, **FNP-BC**, Dr. Troy is an Associate Professor of Nursing and teaches forensics and mental health to nursing students at the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans. As a forensic pediatric nurse practitioner at Children's Hospital in New Orleans for the past 13 years, Troy assesses, treats, and testifies for pediatric survivors of child sexual abuse, seeing more than five hundred children a year. Her research interests include evaluating the vicarious trauma of jurors as a result of serving at criminal trials, evaluating and remediating ACEs in nurses, and primary prevention of abuse.

ACTIVITY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Identify the main vision problems associated with children in the preschool and school-age population.
- Summarize the significance of detecting and treating vision problems in children.
- Identify the characteristics of each stage of conflict.
- Discuss the importance of reporting violence on incident reports.
- Discuss strategies to de-escalate a situation within each stage of conflict.
- Describe the impact of trauma and ACEs on children.
- Understand how to perform an ACEs screening.
- Identify indicators of child maltreatment or abuse.
- Understand the legal obligation of health practitioners as mandated reporters.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Location	Nicholls State University Betsy C. Ayo Hall -
	Nirmala Yalamanchili Donepudi Auditorium
Networking	
Presentation time	
Credit	
Fee	\$75

THE TARGET AUDIENCE IS REGISTERED NURSES.



Examining the Impacts of Technological Advances, Electronic Health Records, and Case Management in Healthcare

Join us for an eventful CNE activity and enhance your practice with this essential knowledge! In today's complex healthcare landscape, certain topics are crucial for nurses and healthcare providers to understand despite not always being the focus of day-to-day discussions. For this CNE activity, content experts will present some vital information that can have significant implications for healthcare settings, patient outcomes, and healthcare quality.

FEATURED TOPICS:

- 1. Artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare
- 2. Cybersecurity and intrusion detection
- 3. Stigmatizing language and bias in documentation
- 4. EHR data and audit trails
- 5. Case Management's role in compliance and regulations

SPEAKERS:

Bennett Cheramie, MSN, RN, CHCIO, is the Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Baton Rouge General. He is most recently credited with successfully leading BRG through a lengthy EPIC MyChart installation and conversion that allows patients and their medical teams greater access to their medical information, improving patient care and outcomes. Bennett has also used his background in nursing to transform the hospital system's clinical technology over his 16 years at BRG. He holds a master's in nursing, Health Care Systems Management from Loyola University New Orleans, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from William Carey College. Cheramie is also a Certified Healthcare Chief Information Officer and an active member of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), KLAS Research, College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME), and the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA).

Jennifer Ray- BSN, RN, is the Director of Information Systems, Applications, and Informatics at Baton Rouge Medical Center. Jennifer has a robust skill set that includes Healthcare, Healthcare Information Technology, EMRs, Hospitals, and Healthcare Management.

Rebecca Cypher MSN, PNNP, is a perinatal nurse with over 20 years of experience as a clinical nurse, university faculty, manager, educator, and advanced practice nurse. She has held various positions in AWHONN, including consultant, task force chair for the Advanced Fetal Heart Monitoring course, member of the Intermediate Fetal Heart Monitoring revision committee, author in AWHONN's fetal heart monitoring texts,

and the Armed Forces Section Chair. She has presented at local, state, and national meetings on a variety of topics, including fetal monitoring, legal issues, and high-risk conditions in pregnancy.

Mary Ann Seibold RN, MBA, FN, LNC, is a registered nurse with over a decade of healthcare experience. Her clinical experience includes ICU, Med/Surg, and auditing for the insurance industry for Medicare. Mary Ann is the owner of Seibold & Associates Consulting Agency, where she analyzes and identifies critical issues in medical-related cases. Mary Ann is deeply interested in audit trails and invested her time in learning how they affect healthcare and medical-related cases.

Gabrielle Heyl, BSN, RN, graduated from Nicholls State University in 2007 and began her career as a Med/Surg staff nurse and then as Unit Coordinator for 7 years before joining Case Management. As a nurse case manager, she performed utilization reviews and discharge planning for variuos patients. Gabrielle became the intake coordinator, working closely with the ED to provide level-of-care recommendations and discharge planning. She transitioned to the Case Management Coordinator position, which focused on denial management, outlier reviews, and supportive discharge planning. She currently serves as the Director of Case Management at Thibodaux Regional.

ACTIVITY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Explain how Artificial Intellegence (AI) is transforming patient care and decision-making.
- Discuss essential strategies to protect patient data and ensure compliance.
- Understand the impact of language on patient relationships and equity in care.
- Discover the importance of data integrity and accountability in electronic records.
- Recognize the impact of case management on the healthcare system.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Location	Virtual Event via Zoom
Networking	
Presentation time	8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Credit	
Fee	\$75



THE TARGET AUDIENCE IS REGISTERED NURSES AND HEALTHCARE MEMBERS.



Enhancing Professional and Clinical Knowledge in the Specialties of Podiatry, Otolaryngology, Oncology, Cardiology

This CNE event will focus on various specialty topics by providing in-depth insights into clinical areas, aiming to provide an understanding of the latest advancements, challenges, and protocols within those specialties. The specific topical focus will include common foot problems, pain, causes and treatments, and otolaryngologic conditions, such as obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), tinnitus, and tumors of the larynx. Electrophysiological disorders will be the main focus of cardiology, and the latest developments in cancer treatment will feature novel immunotherapy in oncology. By acquiring this information, nurses can broaden their knowledge and assessment techniques, as well as be aware of and apply new strategies to improve patient care, leading to better outcomes.

SPEAKERS:

Bryon McKenna, DPM, is a Podiatrist/Foot and Ankle Surgeon at Thibodaux Regional Health System who specializes in all foot and ankle conditions, from sports injuries and general foot pain to complex reconstructive and limb salvage surgery. Dr. McKenna completed one of the most prestigious foot and ankle surgery fellowships in the United States at the Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Center in Columbus, Ohio. He is one of only a few podiatry-trained surgeons in the world to complete this fellowship.

Justin Tenney, MD, is a board-certified otolaryngologist, head and neck surgeon, and specialist in ear, nose, and throat conditions.

Joni Champagne Huerstel RN, OCN, has been a nurse for over 30 years. She has experience in the ICU, ED, and oncology settings. Joni has spent her latest year in her nursing career in oncology and is currently employed by Mary Bird Perkins.

Murray Morello MSN, FNP-C, is a nurse practitioner at the Cardiovascular Institute of the South in Houma and Thibodaux and is a part of the electrophysiology team. He earned his BSN from Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge and his MSN at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. Morella is certified as a family nurse practitioner by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. He is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the Heart Rhythm Society.

ACTIVITY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Identify common lower extremity and foot pathologies.
- Describe indications for treatment and referral with foot conditions.
- Identify management approaches for various arrhythmias.
- Discuss nursing care and education for patients with cardiac implantable devices.
- Recognize the risk of undiagnosed and unmanaged OSA.
- Relate the emerging role of immunotherapy in treating various types of cancer.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Location	Nicholls State University Betsy C. Ayo Hall -
	Nirmala Yalamanchili Donepudi Auditorium
Networking	
Presentation time	
Credit	
Fee	\$75





Pharmacology for The Advanced Practice Nurse:

- Pediatric Pharmacology: Preventing and Treating Infections and Treating Anxiety, Depression, and ADHD
- Women's Health Pharmacology
- Geriatric Pharmacology
- Pharmacology in the Treatment of Endocrinology Disorders: Adrenal Thyroid/Parathyroid and Pituitary Conditions

As an advanced practice nurse, it is crucial to have a solid understanding of pharmacology. Evidence-based care is essential when prescribing medications for conditions among special populations such as pediatrics, geriatrics, and women. This professional development activity, led by a team of experts in their field, will provide a comprehensive review of pharmacological considerations and treatment for patients within these populations. In addition, this CNE activity will provide a review and update on pharmacological treatment for certain endocrine disorders.

SPEAKERS:

Micah Callais, MSN, FNP-C, is a family nurse practitioner who specializes in pediatric care. Since practicing, he has spent the past 7 years working at The Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine. This private practice provides primary/preventative services and general pediatric behavioral care to the Houma/ Thibodaux and surrounding areas.

Brittany Breaux, MD, Dr. Breaux completed her endocrinology fellowship at Ochsner Health System and thereafter began the endocrinology department at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge. In 2022, Dr. Breaux established Alta Endocrinology Clinical, where she offers individualized comprehensive endocrinology and metabolic care.

Michelle Andre, **MD**, is board-certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics/Gynecology. In her practice, Dr. Andre especially enjoys the opportunity to speak with and educate women of all ages about their sexual health. As a member of NAMS and ISSWSH, Dr. Andre continuously updated her awareness of treatments for menopause and perimenopause symptoms, sexual dysfunction, and obesity. Her membership in these organizations and the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) allows for her advocacy for the fair and equal allocation of resources for women's health.

Lori W. Gardiner DNP, APRN, FNP, PMHNP-BC,

is an Assistant Professor in Nursing at Nicholls and teaches Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice in the Graduate Program in Nursing.

ACTIVITY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Identify pharmacology specific to women's health.
- Recognize the indications of hormonal replacement therapy for menopausal women.
- Differentiate between medications used in the prevention and treatment of bacterial and viral infections among the pediatric population.
- Compare pediatric pharmacology in the treatment of ADHD, anxiety, and depression.
- Identify new and common pharmacology in the treatment of specific endocrine disorders.
- Recognize age-associated changes in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.
- Identify strategies to reduce polypharmacy in the geriatric population.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Location	Nicholls State University Betsy C. Ayo Hall -
	Nirmala Yalamanchili Donepudi Auditorium
Networking	
Presentation time	
Credit	
Fee	





Caring for the Patient with Alzheimer's Disease or Related Dementia and End of Life Care

The landscape of Alzheimer's Disease (AD) treatment is rapidly evolving with the emergence of novel therapeutic options aimed at modifying the disease process and managing symptoms. As new therapies move from research to clinical practice, healthcare providers must be prepared to navigate the complexities of these emerging treatments.

Those living with AD may benefit from palliative or hospice care. Palliative care and hospice care are resources for anyone with a serious illness to enhance their quality of life, help them make difficult decisions, and provide symptom management, psychosocial support, and care coordination. A comprehensive approach to care is essential when dealing with individuals with AD or those requiring palliative or hospice care. Knowledge of this holistic approach equips providers to address the physical, psychological, and social needs, as well as existential suffering and well-being.

SPEAKERS:

Melissa Rice, MSN, RN, has been the supportive care coordinator at Terrebonne General for 10 years. Until Dr. St Cyr's arrival last year, she directed a nurse-led program at the hospital, which saw approximately two thousand consults annually. She completed her master's in nursing from Loyola University New Orleans and is board-certified in Hospice and Palliative care nursing.

Logan St. Cyr, MD, is a Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care Specialist at Terrebonne General Health System in Houma, Louisiana. She received her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from LSU before completing her medical degree at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. She completed training in Internal Medicine at LSU HSC's branch campus in Baton Rouge and subsequently completed subspecialty training in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and board-eligible in Palliative Care. **Keith M. Weisheit, LCSW**, is currently the Director of Social Work and Business Development for Terrebonne Homecare, Inc., and has been a social worker in the area for the last 33 years. After serving 15 years at Terrebonne General Medical Center, he began his work in Home Health and Hospice. He is a staff Social Worker with Haydel Hospice and has extensive training in advanced care planning and support with cancer and dementia patients. He was the facilitator for NOSOTROS, a faith-based cancer support group for many years and started the first Alzheimer's Support Group in 1990. He currently facilitates all three of the local Bayou Region Alzheimer's Support Groups and the annual Dementia Care Conference. He has also been a television host for the local TV station for the last 12 years. He credits his family for instilling a strong work ethic and dedication.

Derek Neupert, MD, is a Neurologist at Thibodaux Regional Health System. He is Board-Certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and a member of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society. Dr. Neupert specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of neurological conditions such as stroke, epilepsy/seizures, headache disorders, neuropathy, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease.

ACTIVITY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- List possible causes and risk factors of Alzheimer's Disease (AD).
- Identify emerging therapies in the treatment and management of AD.
- Identify resources available for those living with AD and their caregivers/family members.
- Differentiate hospice & palliative care.
- Understand eligibility for hospice and palliative care.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Location	Virtual Event via Zoom
Networking	
Presentation time	
Credit	
Fee	\$75

