

## **Renewal by Synergy CERPs Fact Sheet**

### ***What is Renewal by Synergy CERPs and how does it affect CCRN & PCCN renewal?***

Renewal by Synergy CERPs integrates the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care™ into the CCRN and PCCN certification renewal programs. As a result, CERP (Continuing Education Recognition Point) categories, definitions and number of CERPs required per category have changed. The total number of required CERPs remains at 100 per renewal period and CERPs recognized are largely the same.

### ***Why was the Renewal by Synergy CERPs program implemented?***

The prior Renewal by CERPs program was established before the development of the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care (Synergy Model). While the Synergy Model has been the framework for AACN certification exams since 1997, the model had not yet been integrated into the Renewal by CERPs programs. This integration provides continuity between certification and certification renewal and aligns more equitable emphasis on Clinical Judgment between certification and certification renewal programs.

Many CCRNs were certified prior to the development of the Synergy Model as the organizing framework for AACN certification. It makes sense for all certificants to be familiar with the Synergy Model and how it applies to their practice. The intent is for the Synergy Model to offer more meaningful renewal requirements, better prepare nurses for the future, and provide consistency between certification and certification renewal programs.

### ***When did the Synergy CERPs program go into effect?***

The Renewal by Synergy CERPs program went into effect January 1, 2007, with a 3-year implementation phase. Effective January 1, 2010 all CCRN and PCCN certificants are required to renew by Synergy CERPs or renew by exam.

### ***What has changed?***

The CERP categories, definitions and percentage weights have changed. CERP categories A, B and C reflect the eight Synergy Model Nurse Competencies grouped into three categories by similarity. CERPs are required in all three categories.

### ***What are the total number of CERPs required in each category?***

60 CERPs in Category A (max of 80)  
10 CERPs in Category B (max of 30)  
10 CERPs in Category C (max of 30)  
Plus 20 CERPs in category of your choice (A, B or C)

### ***Which renewal programs are affected by the Synergy CERP program implementation?***

CCRN and PCCN certificants, whose renewal programs are aligned, are affected by the Synergy CERPs program. Renewal requirements for CCNS, CMC and CSC have not changed, but some of the language has been updated to integrate the Synergy Model.

**What are the new CERP categories and components?**

Category A - Clinical Judgment, Clinical Inquiry

Category B - Advocacy/Moral Agency, Caring Practices, Response to Diversity, Facilitation of Learning

Category C - Collaboration, Systems Thinking

**Given 20 CERPs are in my category of choice, what are minimum and maximum CERPs per category?**

<u>CERP Category</u>	<u>Minimum CERPs</u>	<u>Maximum CERPs</u>
A	60	80
B	10	30
C	10	30

**What has not changed?**

Renewal by Synergy CERPs is still based on the CERPs program, which includes ongoing learning topics and activities. A total of 100 CERPs is still required for each 3-year renewal period.

Certificants continue to sign honor statements at renewal time, and a percentage of renewal applicants will be audited to assure compliance with the continuing competency requirements.

**Where can I learn more about Renewal by Synergy CERPs?**

A 3-year time period to implement the changes has provided opportunities for certificants to ask questions about the Renewal by Synergy CERPs program. A variety of resources are on the AACN Certification Corporation Web site at [www.certcorp.org](http://www.certcorp.org) including *Synergy CERPs At-a-Glance*; ABCs of Synergy CERPs; Quick Reference list of sample topics and activities that count toward each category; Fact Sheet; PowerPoint slide presentation; and Renewal by Synergy CERPs Bookmark with definitions of the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care Nurse Competencies. Details can also be found in the *CCRN/PCCN Renewal Handbook*.

**Comparison of Prior and Current Renewal Requirements**

<b>Certifications</b>	<b>Prior Requirements per Renewal Period</b>	<b>Current Requirements per Renewal Period</b>
<b>CCRN / PCCN</b>	100 Total	100 Total
	25 Category A	60 Category A
	75 Choice - Category A or O	10 Category B
		10 Category C
		20 choice - Category A, B or C
<b>CMC / CSC</b>	25 Total	No change
	25 Category A	25 Category A (Clinical Judgment only)
<b>CCNS</b>	60 Total	No change
	15 Category A	15 Category A (Clinical Judgment only)
	45 Optional within Category A	45 Optional within Category A (Clinical Judgment and Clinical Inquiry)