

NP AND CNS CERTIFICATION RULEMAKING GUIDE

As your partners in regulation, the APRN certifiers who administer Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist examinations would like to provide information to assist in implementation of the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education. This guide clarifies what exams for the NP and CNS are available today, what changes to exams are forthcoming, and what exams will be offered in the future.

CURRENT NP AND CNS CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

The following certification programs, which have been reviewed by the NCSBN APRN Committee and determined to meet the *NCSBN Criteria for APRN Certification Exams (2002)* will continue through the implementation period until 2015 as long as there are students in programs under existing curricula who require licensure. After 2015, current certificants will be allowed to renew their certification through existing renewal processes but not by examination. **We request that these certification categories be maintained by Boards of Nursing for the purpose of grandfathering this large group of practitioners who were educated and credentialed under existing regulatory models.**

AACN CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

- Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Acute and Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist - Adult
- Acute and Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist - Pediatric
- Acute and Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist - Neonatal

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- Adult Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Gerontologic Nurse Practitioner

AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER

- Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult Nurse Practitioner
- Adult Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Family Psych & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Gerontological Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- School Nurse Practitioner (*exam retired; renewal only*)
- Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Adult Psychiatric & Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Child Adolescent Psych & Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Clinical Nurse Specialist Core Exam (*exam retired; renewal only*)
- Home Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (*exam retired; renewal only*)
- Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Public/Community Health Clinical Nurse Specialist

THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
- Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner

PEDIATRIC NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD

- Acute Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- Primary Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

CONSENSUS MODEL CHANGES

With implementation of the Consensus Model, the following changes will occur in Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist certification examinations that will be used for regulatory purposes:

- **All Adult-only examinations will change to Adult-Gerontology examinations.** New nationally endorsed competencies have been developed for Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioners, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioners and Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialists through a generous grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. These competencies will be used by educational programs to structure their curricula to conform with the Consensus Model and by the certification organizations to develop their new certification examinations, and are being distributed to Boards of Nursing.
- **All Clinical Nurse Specialist** educational programs will include content, and **certification examinations will test competencies, from wellness through acute care, regardless of population focus.**
- **The Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, the Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and the Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner** are four separate and distinct educational programs with nationally endorsed educational standards and competencies and **four separate and distinct certification examinations.** This differentiation has been preserved in the Consensus Model and is further explained as a footnote to the Nurse Practitioner role in the model diagram.

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS FOR THE FUTURE UNDER THE CONSENSUS MODEL

The certification organizations are in the process of conducting job analysis studies to develop new examinations to meet the requirements of the Consensus Model in time to meet the needs of students who may graduate in advance of the 2015 implementation deadline. The certification organizations are also maintaining their current examination programs for students who are enrolled under existing curricula. The examinations listed below are those already in place or will be implemented before 2015 to comply with the requirements of the Consensus Model and can be incorporated into future rulemaking or policy documents. As new examinations are developed and approved by certification Boards of Directors, Test Plan changes will be filed with the NCSBN APRN Committee and individual Boards of Nursing as required.

AACN CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (*tests wellness through acute care continuum*)
- Pediatric Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (*tests wellness through acute care continuum*)
- Neonatal Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (*tests wellness through acute care continuum*)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- AANPCP will offer certification as Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner to those prepared to practice as primary care nurse practitioners in accordance with the provisions of the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education document. The exact title is yet to be determined.
- Family Nurse Practitioner

AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER

- ANCC will be creating new certification examinations to meet the new role and/or population foci requirements. Planning for these certifications is underway and ANCC will announce the new certifications as soon as the details are available.

THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
- Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner

PEDIATRIC NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD

- Acute Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- Primary Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

We thank you for your attention to this important matter potentially impacting more than 190,000 current Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists, and ultimately patient access to care. Your guidance and communication to your State Board is critical as we work together to implement the Consensus Model. The APRNs, whom our certification boards credential, are meeting established standards for maintaining certification linked to licensure, and your support on their behalf is both needed and greatly appreciated. Please contact us with your questions at:

AACN CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

- Carol Hartigan, MA, RN - Certification Programs Strategist - carol.hartigan@aacn.org

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- Rick Meadows, MS, NP-C, FAANP - Executive Director - certification@aanp.org

AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER

- Ellen Swartwout, MSN, NEA-BC, GCDF - Certification Director - Ellen.Swartwout@ana.org

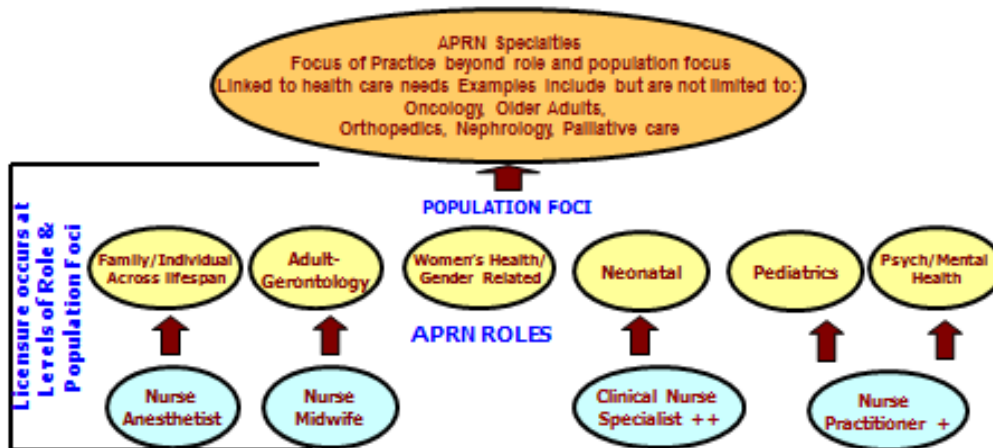
NATIONAL CERTIFICATION CORPORATION

- Betty Burns, CAE, Executive Director, bburns@nccnet.org

PEDIATRIC NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD

- Peg Harrison MS, RN, CPNP - Chief Executive Officer - pncb@pncb.org

APRN Regulatory Model



+The certified nurse practitioner (CNP) is prepared with the acute care CNP competencies and/or the primary care CNP competencies. At this point in time the acute care and primary care CNP delineation applies only to the pediatric and adult-gerontology CNP population foci. Scope of practice of the primary care or acute care CNP is **not setting specific** but is based on patient care needs. Program may prepare individuals across both the primary care and acute care CNP competencies. If programs prepare graduates across both sets of roles, the graduate must be prepared with the consensus-based competencies for both roles and must successfully obtain certification in both the acute and the primary care CNP roles. CNP certification in the acute care or primary care roles must match the educational preparation for CNP's in these roles.

++The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is educated and assessed through national certification processes across the continuum from wellness through acute care.

APRN Regulatory Model; Nurse Practitioner Focus

