MISSION

AACN Certification Corporation drives patient health and safety through comprehensive credentialing of acute and critical care nurses ensuring practice consistent with standards of excellence.

VISION

All nurses caring for acutely and critically ill patients and their families are certified.

VALUES

As the Corporation advances its mission and vision to fulfill its purpose and inherent obligation of ensuring the health and safety of patients experiencing acute and critical illness, the Corporation is guided by a set of deeply rooted values:

- **Providing leadership** to bring all stakeholders together to create and foster cultures of excellence and innovation.
- **Acting with integrity** and upholding ethical values and principles in all relationships and the provision of sound, fair and defensible credentialing programs.
- **Committing to excellence** in credentialing programs by striving to exceed industry standards and expectations.
- **Promoting leading edge, research-based credentialing programs** for all nurses who care for and influence the care of acutely and critically ill patients.
- **Demonstrating stewardship** through fair and responsible management of resources and cost-effective business processes.

ETHICS

AACN and AACN Certification Corporation consider the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses foundational for nursing practice, providing a framework for making ethical decisions and fulfilling responsibilities to the public, colleagues and the profession. AACN Certification Corporation’s mission of public protection supports a standard of excellence that certified nurses have a responsibility to read, understand and act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

The following AACN Certification Corporation programs have been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accreditation arm of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCRN® (Adult)</td>
<td>PCCN®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCRN® (Pediatric)</td>
<td>CMC®</td>
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<td>CCRN® (Neonatal)</td>
<td>CSC®</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCRN-E™ (Adult)</td>
<td>ACCNS-AG®</td>
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<td>ACCNS-AG®</td>
<td>ACCNS-P®</td>
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<td>ACCNS-N®</td>
<td>ACNPC-AG®</td>
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Our advanced practice certification programs, ACCNS-AG, ACCNS-P, ACCNS-N and ACNPC-AG, meet the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) criteria for APRN certification programs.
As healthcare becomes increasingly complex and challenging, certification has emerged as a mark of excellence showing patients, employers and the public that a nurse is qualified and competent, and has met the rigorous requirements to achieve specialty and/or subspecialty certification.

AACN Certification Corporation programs were created to protect healthcare consumers by validating the knowledge of nurses who care for the acutely and critically ill. We are pleased to provide you with this handbook with information about how to renew your ACNPC-AG certification.

Today, more than 96,000 practicing nurses hold one or more of these certifications from AACN Certification Corporation:

**Specialty Certifications**

- **CCRN®** is for nurses providing direct bedside care to acutely/critically ill adult, pediatric or neonatal patients.
- **CCRN-E™** is for nurses working in a tele-ICU monitoring acutely/critically ill adult patients from a remote location.
- **CCRN-K™** is for nurses whose non-direct care practice influences patients, nurses and/or organizations to have a positive impact on the care delivered to acutely/critically ill adult, pediatric or neonatal patients.
- **PCCN®** is for progressive care nurses providing direct bedside care to acutely ill adult patients.
- **CNML** is for nurse managers and leaders; offered in partnership with AONE (American Organization of Nurse Executives) Credentialing Center.

**Subspecialty Certifications**

- **CMC®** is for certified nurses providing direct bedside care to acutely/critically ill adult cardiac patients.
- **CSC®** is for certified nurses providing direct bedside care to acutely ill adult patients during the first 48 hours after cardiac surgery.

**Advanced Practice Consensus Model-Based Certifications**

- **ACNPC-AG®** is for the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner educated at the graduate level.
  
  The ACCNS credentials are for clinical nurse specialists educated at the graduate level to provide care across the continuum from wellness through acute care:
  - **ACCNS-AG®** is for the adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist.
  - **ACCNS-P®** is for the pediatric clinical nurse specialist.
  - **ACCNS-N®** is for the neonatal clinical nurse specialist.

**Advanced Practice Certifications**

- With implementation of the Consensus Model in 2015, ACNPC and CCNS are available as renewal options only:
  - **ACNPC®** is for acute care nurse practitioners educated to provide care to adult patients.
  - **CCNS®** is for acute/critical care clinical care specialists educated to provide care to adult, pediatric or neonatal patients.

We continually seek to provide quality certification programs that meet the changing needs of nurses and patients. Please visit www.certcorp.org > Documents and Handbooks, or call (800) 899-2226 for more information about the above certifications.

Thank you for your commitment to patients and their families and to becoming certified.
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<th>Contents</th>
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<td>CE Renewal Points Program</td>
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<td>AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Review and Appeal Process</td>
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**ACNPC-AG Renewal Applications**

- Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Points                               | 19-20|
- Renewal by Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE and Exam                   | 21-22|
- Renewal by CE Points and Exam                                         | 23-24|
**CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

**Definition**
Certification is a process by which a nongovernmental agency validates, based upon predetermined standards, an individual nurse’s qualifications and knowledge for practice in a defined functional or clinical area of nursing.

ACNPC-AG certification validates knowledge at entry-level as an acute care nurse practitioner in the advanced care of adult-gerontology patients with complex acute and/or chronic health conditions.

The purpose of certification renewal is to enhance continued competence. The ACNPC-AG renewal process helps you maintain an up-to-date knowledge base.

**Code of Ethics**
AACN and AACN Certification Corporation consider the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses foundational for nursing practice, providing a framework for making ethical decisions and fulfilling responsibilities to the public, colleagues and the profession.

AACN Certification Corporation’s mission of public protection supports a standard of excellence that certified nurses have a responsibility to read, understand and act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses. To access the ANA Code of Ethics, visit www.certcorp.org > About AACN Certification Corp > Mission & Values.

**ACNPC-AG Registered Service Mark**
ACNPC-AG® is a registered service mark and denotes certification as an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner as granted by AACN Certification Corporation. Adult-gerontology ACNPs who have not achieved ACNPC-AG certification or whose ACNPC-AG certification has lapsed are not authorized to use the ACNPC-AG credential.

**Administration and Sponsorship**
The certification programs are administered by AACN Certification Corporation. The certification exams are conducted in cooperation with Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP).

**Membership Requirements**
There are no association membership requirements to participate in the ACNPC-AG certification program.

**Nondiscrimination Policy**
It is the policy of AACN Certification Corporation, its Board of Directors, committee members and staff to comply with all applicable laws that prohibit discrimination in employment or service provision because of a person’s race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, national origin, or because of any other protected characteristic.

**Recognition of Certification**
Candidates who meet all eligibility requirements and pass the ACNPC-AG certification exam may use “ACNPC-AG” after their licensing title. ACNPC-AG is used in recognition of professional competence as an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner for a 5-year period of certification.

ACNPC-AG is a registered service mark. It is not punctuated with periods. The proper use of ACNPC-AG is as follows: Chris Smith, RN, MSN, ACNPC-AG.

A listing of ACNPC-AG-certified nurses is maintained by AACN Certification Corporation and may be reported in its publications and/or listed on its website. Certification status is available to the public via the online Certification Verification system, available at www.certcorp.org.
**ACNPC-AG RENEWAL FEES**

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<td>Nonmembers</td>
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<tr>
<td>AACN Members</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmembers</td>
<td>$305</td>
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Payable in U.S. funds. A $15 fee will be charged for all returned checks. Fees are subject to change without notice.

The renewal fee is for processing and is nonrefundable.

**NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGES**

Renewal notifications will be mailed and emailed to you starting 4 months prior to your scheduled renewal date. You are responsible for notifying AACN Certification Corporation should your name and/or address change at any time before or after you become certified. Failure to do so may result in not receiving information necessary for certification renewal.

Please notify us of any address or email address changes; you may update your profile as follows:

- online at www.aacn.org/myaccount,
- email info@aacn.org, or
- call AACN Customer Care at (800) 899-2226

The following changes must be made by calling AACN Customer Care at (800) 899-2226

- name changes
- address changes for exam candidates during 90-day testing window

Candidates are responsible for renewing their certification even if they do not receive a renewal notice.

**ACNPC-AG RENEWAL POLICIES**

AACN Certification Corporation may adopt additional eligibility requirements at its sole discretion. Any such requirements will be designed to establish, for purposes of ACNPC-AG certification, the adequacy of a candidate’s knowledge in caring for the acutely ill.

**Late or retroactive renewal is not available for ACNPC-AG certification. To maintain a current ACNPC-AG certification, renewal must be completed prior to your certification expiration date.**

To reobtain certification you would then need to meet the current ACNPC-AG initial exam eligibility requirements (based on educational preparation) and pass the ACNPC-AG exam.

If *Acute Care Nurse Practitioner* is not selected as “Primary Position Held” on your ACNPC-AG Renewal application and/or your “Primary Area Employed” is not clearly in an area where acutely ill patients are typically cared for, you must complete the *ACNPC-AG Practice Validation Form* on pages 11-14 and submit with your renewal application.
Candidates for ACNPC-AG renewal must hold a current, unencumbered U.S. RN or APRN license.

- An unencumbered license has not been subjected to formal discipline by any state board of nursing and has no provisions or conditions that limit the nurse’s practice in any way. This applies to all RN and APRN licenses currently held.

- Certificants must notify AACN Certification Corporation **within 30 days** if any restriction is placed on their RN or APRN license(s).

The name and contact information of your supervisor or a professional colleague (RN or physician) who can verify practice hours must be provided. The verifier need not be ACNPC-AG-certified.

ACNPC-AGs may seek certification renewal via one of the following options:

**Option 1 - Practice Hours and CE Points**

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC-AG renewal candidates must work a minimum of 1,000 hours meeting the practice hour requirement as outlined and complete 150 CE Renewal Points, 75 of which must be in Category I - Acute Care Education Programs and 25 of which must be pharmacy-focused.

- Complete the CE Renewal Points Log on pages 9 and 10 of this handbook. If selected for audit, submit the completed log along with supporting documentation.

- Candidates must complete the ACNPC-AG Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Renewal Points application/honor statement located on pages 19 and 20.

**Option 2 - Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE* and Exam**

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC-AG renewal candidates must work a minimum of 1,000 hours meeting the practice hour requirement as outlined, complete 25 Pharmacology CE, and apply for, take and pass the certification exam **before** the expiration date of their certification. It is not permissible to take the exam early and then attempt to renew by CE Points if the exam is failed.

- Candidates must complete the ACNPC-AG Renewal by Practice Hours, Pharmacology CE and Exam application/honor statement located on pages 21 and 22.

**Option 3 - CE Points and Exam**

- In the 5-year renewal period, ACNPC-AG renewal candidates must complete 150 CE Renewal Points, 75 of which must be in Category I - Acute Care Education Programs and 25 of which must be in pharmacology, and apply for, take and pass the ACNPC-AG exam **before** the certification expiration date.

- Complete the CE Renewal Points Log on pages 9 and 10 of this handbook. If selected for audit, submit the completed log along with supporting documentation.

- Candidates must complete the ACNPC-AG Renewal by CE Points and Exam application/honor statement located on pages 23 and 24.

*Effective January 1, 2016*, twenty-five (25) Pharmacology CE are required for all nurses renewing ACNPC-AG certification. See page 7 for details.
For Those Renewing by Practice Hours  
(Options 1 and 2)  
- Practice hours for ACNPC-AG renewal includes active involvement in the direct care of acutely ill adult-gerontology patients as an APRN in the role of the acute care nurse practitioner for a minimum of 1,000 hours during the certification period prior to application.

- Eligible hours are those spent caring for adult-gerontology patients with complex acute and/or chronic health conditions.

- Hours spent by faculty members supervising the acute care clinical practice of APRN students may be counted toward the practice hour requirement for ACNPC-AG renewal.

- Eligible practice hours for ACNPC-AG renewal are those completed within the U.S. ACNPs practicing outside the U.S. should contact AACN at APRNcert@aacn.org regarding eligible practice hours.

For Those Renewing by Exam  
(Options 2 and 3)  
- For current test plan and study references, refer to the ACNPC-AG Exam Handbook. For information regarding exam scheduling and testing refer to the Certification Exam Policy Handbook. These documents are available online at www.certcorp.org > Documents and Handbooks.

- Once the application is processed (takes 2 to 4 weeks) AACN Certification Corporation will notify our testing service, AMP, of eligible candidates; AMP will send a confirmation email and postcard with a toll-free number and web address, for those who prefer to register online, to each eligible candidate to schedule the exam.

- Candidates call or go online directly after receiving their confirmation email or postcard from AMP to schedule an appointment at a testing location of their choice.

- Candidates must apply for, take and pass the ACNPC-AG exam before the certification expiration date.
Category I - Acute Care Education Programs

At least 75 of the 150 required CE Points must be in this category. All 150 CE Points may be in this category.

A. Formally Approved Programs

This area encompasses acute care programs granting approved continuing education credit(s) such as CE, CNE, CME or ACPE and academic credit courses.

Acceptable programs must possess one of the following characteristics:

- Have direct application to meeting the needs of the adult-gerontology patient population.
- Address clinical knowledge, skills and abilities utilized by adult-gerontology ACNPs.

Twenty-five (25) CE Points in Category I must be pharmacology-focused:

- Pharmacology content must be at the advanced practice level and related to the APRN’s licensed advanced role and population focus.
- To determine the number of CE Points for programs providing CEs, CNEs or CMEs that don’t specify pharmacology hours and programs that don’t provide formal contact hours, but include pharmacology content, use the following calculation: 60 minutes = 1 CE Point.
- If audited, submit the educational presentation or conference agenda as evidence to validate the CE point calculation and include a narrative note describing pharmacology content within agenda.

These programs need NOT be approved by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and may be offered by hospitals, professional associations or independent education groups. Home study or self-study programs from professional journals and other sources that grant contact hours apply to Category I.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) may account for no more than 50% of the total points in Category I.

If an academic credit course specific to care of the acutely ill patient population is completed, CE can be awarded in Category I. For academic credit courses, one (1) credit is worth 15 CEs. For example, a 3-credit course would be worth 45 CEs.

Category II - Optional Activities

Optional activities may account for no more than 75 of the 150 required CE Points. Optional activities are not required.

A. Professional Publications

Encompasses professional nursing publications. Responsibility in the publication may be authorship, co-authorship or editorial. The item to be published may be a book, chapter in a book, paper, article, abstract, book reviews, etc. Professionally authored multimedia aids are acceptable (points for joint authorships are determined by dividing the number of points to be awarded by the number of authors).

Eligible courses include, but are not limited to:

- Physical assessment
- Anatomy/physiology/pathophysiology
- Diagnostic tests used in acute and critical care settings (e.g., ABG interpretation, cardiac angiography, x-ray and lab interpretation)
- Concerns regarding the acute or critical care environment (e.g., infection control)
- Psychological or behavioral responses of the patient and family (e.g., sensory deprivation, patient teaching, nursing diagnosis)
- Issues pertaining to the patient care environment (e.g., ethical and legal issues)
- Therapies, interventions or knowledge vital to patient management (e.g., fluid dynamics, BLS, ACLS, PALS, NRP, ECG interpretation, nutritional support, pain management, IV therapy, pharmacology)
- Applied clinical research
ACNPC-AG CE RENEWAL POINTS PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Number of CEs Points Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial in a journal</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Write a column for a journal</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article in a local newsletter or AACN chapter newsletter</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original research article (peer reviewed)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbook or chapter editor</td>
<td>2 points / 10 pages (max 30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textbook author less than 300 pages</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textbook author more than 300 pages</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professionally authored multimedia aids</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Research abstract</td>
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<td>Journal article (peer reviewed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal reviewer (articles or book chapters)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book reviews</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unpublished master’s thesis or equivalent final project</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctoral dissertation or equivalent final project</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service on editorial boards</td>
<td>5 points per board per year</td>
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B. Professional Presentations

Encompasses the certificant’s participation as an instructor delivering content related to the adult-gerontology patient population to nurses, other healthcare professionals or the public. See the ACNPC-AG Test Plan for acceptable topics. The presentation must be delivered within a structured framework of teaching/learning.

A presentation includes a seminar, in-service, clinical conference, patient/family education program, consumer education program, AACN chapter educational activities and/or presenting an original paper or poster. The participation may be as a primary instructor, member of a team, guest lecturer, panel participant, etc. No credit is given for repeat presentations of the same content. 6 points per hour of lecture given

If the program is co-taught, the number of points to be awarded is determined by dividing points by the number of instructors.

NOTE: Activities regularly completed as the focus of employment may not be counted. For example, if you regularly teach in your hospital’s orientation program, you may not count those presentations; however, you may count presentations given on a newly researched topic for NTI or for your chapter, etc.

C. Preceptorship or Volunteer Activities

Participating in activities/teams/committees that solve or prevent complex problems or improve care, across multiple departments, settings, facilities or regions such as spearheading a major patient care improvement; and leading an interdisciplinary team to solve a problem.

10 points per year

NOTE: Activities regularly completed as the focus of employment may not be counted. For example, as one of your hospital’s acute care nurse practitioners, if you are automatically assigned to the rapid response team, you may not count this participation.

Participation in leadership responsibilities or committee involvement on a chapter/regional level.

10 points per committee per year

Leadership responsibilities or committee involvement in professional, governmental or health related organizations.

10 points per committee per year

Preceptorship/mentorship – A minimum of 80 hours per year of preceptorship activity must be obtained in order for points to be granted.

10 points per year

NOTE: Activities regularly completed as the focus of employment may not be counted. If you are precepting an APRN student from a graduate program and are not faculty in that program, you may count those hours. You may not count hours spent precepting or teaching undergraduate students.
ACNPC-AG CE RENEWAL POINTS LOG

Please do NOT submit unless being audited.

NAME: 

AACN CUSTOMER #: 

RENEWAL PERIOD: 

ACNPC-AG CE RENEWAL POINTS PROGRAM
Candidates seeking ACNPC-AG certification renewal must, during the 5-year certification period, complete 150 CE Renewal Points, with at least 75 in the area of Acute Care Education Programs and 25 in pharmacology.

DIRECTIONS
Print or type all information legibly. This form may be photocopied. Keep this log for your records to submit if you are randomly selected for a renewal audit.

CATEGORY I. ACUTE CARE EDUCATION PROGRAMS: At least 75 of the 150 required CE Points must be in this category, of which 25 must be pharmacology-focused. All 150 CE Points may be in this category.

Programs granting contact hours that address subjects with direct application to the needs of the acutely ill patient or family. If selected for audit, submit photocopy of CE certificate, which includes name, date(s) of attendance, title of course and contact hours.

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<th>Program/Course Title</th>
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<th>Sponsoring Organization</th>
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TOTALS 

FEBRUARY 2016
ACNPC-AG CE RENEWAL POINTS LOG

CATEGORY II. OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES  Optional Activities may account for only 75 of the 150 required CE Points. Optional activities are not required.

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS
Responsibility in the publication may be authorship, co-authorship or editorial. The item to be published may be a book, chapter in a book, paper, article, abstract, book reviews, etc. Professionally authored multimedia aids are acceptable (points for joint authorship are determined by dividing the number of points to be awarded by the number of authors).

Number of CEs awarded: Editorial in a journal, book review – 2 each; Write a column for a journal – 10; Article for a local newsletter or AACN chapter newsletter – 5; Original research article (peer reviewed) – 30; Textbook or chapter author or editor – 2 points per 10 pages (max 30); Textbook author less than 300 pages – 30; Textbook author more than 300 pages – 60; Professionally authored multimedia aids – 15; Research abstract – 5; Journal article (peer reviewed) – 20; Journal reviewer (articles or book chapters) – 5; Unpublished master’s thesis – 30; Doctoral dissertation – 45; Service on editorial boards – 5 points per board per year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Type of Publication</th>
<th>No. of Authors</th>
<th>CEs Awarded</th>
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TOTALS

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Encompasses the certificant’s participation as an instructor delivering content to nurses, other healthcare professionals or the public. The presentation must be delivered within a structured framework of teaching/learning.

A presentation includes a seminar, in-service, clinical conference, patient/family education program, consumer education program, AACN chapter educational activities and/or presenting an original paper or poster. The participation may be as a primary instructor, member of a team, guest lecturer, panel participant, etc.

Six (6) points are granted for each contact hour of lecture given. No credit is given for repeat presentations of the same content. If the program is co-taught, the number of points to be awarded is determined by dividing points by the number of instructors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation/Program Type</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>No. of Contact Hours Taught</th>
<th>No. of Instructors</th>
<th>CEs Awarded</th>
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TOTALS

PRECEPTORSHIP OR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES
- Participating in activities/teams/committees that solve or prevent complex problems or improve care, across many participants, multiple departments, settings, facilities or regions such as spearheading a major patient care improvement; and leading an interdisciplinary team to solve a problem – 10 points per year
- Participation in leadership responsibilities or committee involvement on a chapter/regional level – 10 points per committee per year; in professional or health related organizations – 10 points per committee per year
- Preceptorship/mentorship – A minimum of 80 hours per year of preceptorship activity must be obtained in order for points to be granted – 10 points per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Organization</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>No. of Hours Involved in Activity</th>
<th>CEs Awarded</th>
<th>Office Use</th>
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(Total additional sheet if necessary.)

By signing below, I affirm that the information included on this ACNPC-AG CE Renewal Points Log is true and correct.

Signature ________________________________ Printed Name ____________________________________ Date ______________
ACNPC-AG PRACTICE VALIDATION FORM

This form is for use by applicants who are unable to select Acute Care Nurse Practitioner under "Primary Position Held" on their ACNPC-AG Renewal Application, but believe their practice aligns with the role of the ACNP.

Please check any of the following activities that apply to your practice during the 5-year ACNPC-AG certification renewal period. If you wish to provide any additional information about your practice, please include an additional page.

**Clinical Judgment**
- Provide health promotion services
- Provide disease prevention services
- Provide health protection interventions
- Provide anticipatory guidance
- Provide counseling
- Promote a mutually respectful environment that enables nursing and other healthcare personnel to make optimal individual contributions and systems to function most effectively
- Incorporate community needs, strengths and resources into practice
- Apply principles of epidemiology and demography in clinical practice
- Demonstrate critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning skills in clinical decision making
- Obtain a health history from the patient supplemented by health information from collateral sources, including electronic health records and databases, as needed, e.g., with cognitively impaired, sensory impaired or non-self-disclosing patients, observing ethical and legal standards of care
- Perform and accurately document a pertinent, comprehensive and focused physical examination, demonstrating knowledge about developmental, age-related and gender-specific variations
- Differentiate among normal, variations of normal and abnormal findings, including those associated with development and aging in acute, critical and complex illness
- Employ age-appropriate screening and diagnostic strategies
- Assess the impact of an acute, critical and/or chronic illness or injury and the patient’s health promotion needs, social support, and physical and mental health status
- Assess the impact of an acute, critical and/or chronic illness or injury in relation to activity level, mobility and immobility, cognition, decision making capacity, pain, skin integrity, nutrition, sleep and rest patterns, sexuality, immunization status, neglect/abuse, substance use/abuse, quality of life, family/social/educational relationships, genetic risks, health risk behaviors, safety and advanced care planning preferences
- Conduct a pharmacologic assessment addressing polypharmacy, drug interactions and other adverse events, over-the-counter, complementary alternatives, and the ability to obtain, purchase, self-administer and store medications safely and correctly
- Assess the effect of complex acute, critical and chronic illness, disability and/or injury on the individual’s functional status, independence, physical and mental status, social roles and relationships, sexual function and well-being, and economic or financial status
- Assess the complex acutely, critically and/or chronically ill patient for urgent and emergent conditions, using both physiologically and technologically derived data to evaluate for physiologic instability and potential life-threatening conditions
- Analyze data to determine health status
- Perform invasive diagnostic tests
- Develop differential diagnosis
- Recognize the presence of co-morbidities, their impact on presenting health problems, potential for rapid physiologic deterioration or life-threatening instability and the risk for iatrogenesis
- Diagnose complex acute, critical and chronic physical illnesses, including disease exacerbation and/or progression, multisystem health problems, associated complications and iatrogenic conditions
- Recognize common mental health and substance use or addictive disorder/disease, such as anxiety, depression and alcohol and drug use, in the presence of complex acute, critical and chronic illness and make appropriate referrals

continued
Clinical Judgment (cont’d)

☐ Confirm the clinical diagnosis

☐ Prioritize differential diagnoses based on the interpretation of available data and the complexity and severity of the patient’s condition

☐ Collect data in an ongoing process in recognition of the dynamic nature of acute, critical and complex chronic illness

☐ Formulate an evidence-based plan of care integrating knowledge of the rapidly changing pathophysiology of acute or critical illness

☐ Individualize the plan of care to reflect the dynamic nature of the patient’s condition, developmental and life transitions, patient’s and family’s needs

☐ Implement interventions to support and stabilize the patient with a rapidly deteriorating physiologic condition, including the application of basic and advanced life support and other invasive interventions or procedures to regain physiologic stability

☐ Perform therapeutic and diagnostic interventions appropriate to acute and critical health problems, such as suturing, wound debridement, line and tube insertion, and lumbar puncture

☐ Manage interventions that utilize technological devices to monitor and sustain physiological function through ordering, performing, interpreting or supervising

☐ Manage diagnostic strategies and therapies to monitor and sustain physiological function and ensure patient safety including, but not limited to, ECG interpretation, radiograph interpretation, respiratory support, hemodynamic monitoring and nutritional support

☐ Prescribe medications within legal authorization while acknowledging and monitoring for adverse drug outcomes and polypharmacy, especially in high-risk and vulnerable populations such as women of childbearing age, adults with co-morbidities and older adults

☐ Assess interactive and synergistic effects of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions

☐ Determine the need for transition to a different level or type of care based on an assessment of an individual’s acuity, stability, resources and need for assistance

☐ Counsel the patient on the use of complementary/alternative therapies

☐ Prescribe therapeutic devices

☐ Evaluate outcomes of care

☐ Communicate effectively using professional terminology, format and technology

☐ Provide for continuity of care

☐ Demonstrate evidence-based approaches to care

☐ Communicate personal strengths and professional limits

☐ Coordinate inter- and intra-disciplinary teams to develop or revise plans of care focused on patient and/or family needs and concerns

☐ Manage the health/illness status over time

☐ Perform invasive procedures

Advocacy/Moral Agency

☐ Deliver safe care

☐ Empower patients and families to act as own advocate across the continuum of healthcare including in complex, acute healthcare environments

☐ Facilitate patient and family decision making regarding complex acute, critical and chronic illness treatment decisions, end-of-life care, right to refuse treatment, and organ donation in a manner that ensures informed decisions

☐ Advocate for the individual’s and family’s rights regarding healthcare decision making such as emancipation, guardianship, durable power of attorney, healthcare proxy, advance directives and informed consent, within ethical and legal standards

☐ Act ethically

☐ Evaluate implications of health policy

☐ Participate in policy-making activities

☐ Demonstrate leadership to achieve optimal care outcomes for the acutely ill adult-gerontology population in practice, policy and other venues

☐ Maintain confidentiality and privacy
Caring Practices

☐ Attend to the patient’s responses to changes in health status and care

☐ Foster a trusting relationship with the individual, family and other caregivers that facilitates discussion of sensitive issues, such as suicide prevention, self-injury, sexually related issues, substance use/abuse, risk-taking behavior, driving safety, independence, finances, violence, abuse and mistreatment, prognosis, care transitions, changes in levels of care and palliation

☐ Provide comfort and emotional support

☐ Apply principles for behavioral change

☐ Preserve the patient’s control over decision making

☐ Negotiate a mutually acceptable plan of care

☐ Respect the patient’s inherent worth and dignity

☐ Use self-reflection to further a therapeutic relationship

☐ Maintain professional boundaries

☐ Monitor, treat and implement prevention strategies in geriatric syndromes such as falls, loss of functional abilities, dehydration, delirium, depression, dementia, malnutrition, incontinence and constipation

☐ Promote safety and risk reduction through the use of interventions such as devices to promote mobility and prevent falls, cognitive and sensory enhancements, reduced urinary catheter use and restraint-free care

☐ Order and implement palliative and end-of-life care in collaboration with the patient, family and members of the multidisciplinary healthcare team

☐ Manage pain and sedation for patients with complex chronic, acute and critical illness

  ☐ Monitor and evaluate the patient’s pain and sedation response

  ☐ Change the plan of care according to patient reaction and treatment goals

  ☐ Prescribe nonpharmacologic interventions*

  *Pharmacologic interventions fall under Clinical Judgment

☐ Provide culturally appropriate and effective communication that supports therapeutic relationships with individuals, families and caregivers facing acute onset or exacerbations of complex chronic physical and/or psychosocial conditions

☐ Design and implement interventions to prevent or reduce risk factors that contribute to

  ☐ decline in physical or mental function

  ☐ impaired quality of life

  ☐ social isolation

  ☐ excess disability

Collaboration

☐ Participate as a member of healthcare teams

☐ Collaborate with other healthcare providers

☐ Consult with and make appropriate referrals to other healthcare providers

☐ Function in a variety of roles

☐ Advocate for the advanced practice role of the nurse

☐ Promote the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner and other advanced practice nursing roles

☐ Work collaboratively with a variety of health professionals to promote stabilization and restoration of health in complex acute, critical and chronic illness

☐ Recognize the limits of one’s education, clinical expertise and scope of practice, collaborate with colleagues and recognize when to refer patients appropriately

Systems Thinking

☐ Incorporate access, cost, efficacy and quality when making care decisions

☐ Demonstrate current knowledge of healthcare system financing as it affects delivery of care

☐ Analyze organizational structure, functions and resources to affect delivery of care

☐ Prescribe and perform diagnostic, pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic and therapeutic interventions consistent with the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner’s education, practice and state regulatory requirements as authorized within the scope of practice

☐ Apply business strategies
**Systems Thinking (cont’d)**

- Analyze data generated through quality improvement and safety (QSEN) initiatives to identify opportunities to enhance care and the care delivery system
- Participate in all aspects of community health programs
- Advocate for policies that positively affect healthcare
- Negotiate legislative change to influence health-care delivery systems
- Coordinate comprehensive care in and across care settings for patients who have acute and chronic care needs
- Analyze challenges to optimal care created by the competing priorities of patients, payers, providers and suppliers
- Negotiate system barriers to care and to providing care coordination
- Participate in the design, development and evaluation of current and evolving healthcare services to optimize care and outcomes for the adult-gerontology population

**Clinical Inquiry**

- Monitor quality of care
- Assume accountability for practice
- Engage in continuous quality improvement and patient safety initiatives
- Accept personal responsibility for professional development
- Incorporate current technology
- Advance the profession through mentoring, writing, publishing and presenting
- Participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of evidence-based, age-appropriate professional standards and guidelines for care
- Contribute to knowledge development for improved care of the adult-gerontology acute care population

**Response to Diversity**

- Prevent personal biases from interfering with the delivery of quality care
- Provide culturally sensitive care
- Assist patients of diverse cultures to access quality care
- Assist patients and families to meet their spiritual needs
- Address cultural, spiritual and ethnic influences that potentially create conflict among individuals, families, staff and caregivers
- Incorporate patient’s spiritual beliefs into care
- Incorporate cultural preferences, values, health beliefs and behaviors into the management plan
- Develop strategies to reduce the impact of biases including ageism and sexism on healthcare policies and systems

**Facilitation of Learning**

- Assess the patient's educational needs
- Create an effective learning environment
- Design a personalized plan for learning
- Provide health education
- Coach the patient for behavioral changes
- Evaluate the outcomes of patient education
- Educate individuals, families, caregivers and groups regarding strategies to manage the interaction among normal development, aging, and mental and physical disorders
- Adapt teaching-learning approaches based on physiological and psychological changes, age, developmental stage, readiness to learn, health literacy, the environment and resources

**ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY, OR CREATE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT USING THE ABOVE FORMAT.**
AACN SYNERGY MODEL FOR PATIENT CARE

The ACNPC-AG certification program is based on the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care. The basic tenet of the Synergy Model is that optimal patient outcomes can be produced through the synergistic interaction between the needs of the patient and the competencies of the nurse. AACN Certification Corporation is committed to ensuring that certified nursing practice is based on the needs of patients. Integration of the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care into AACN Certification Corporation’s certification programs puts emphasis on the patient and says to the world that patients come first.

The Synergy Model creates a comprehensive look at the patient. It puts the patient in the center of nursing practice. The model identifies nursing’s unique contributions to patient care and uses language to describe the professional nurse’s role. It provides nursing with a venue that clearly states what we do for patients and allows us to start linking ourselves to, and defining ourselves within, the context of the patient and patient outcomes.

Patient Characteristics

The Synergy Model encourages nurses to view patients in a holistic manner rather than the “body systems” medical model. Each patient and family is unique, with a varying capacity for health and vulnerability to illness. Each patient, regardless of the clinical setting, brings a set of unique characteristics to the care situation. Depending on where they are on the healthcare continuum, patients may display varying levels of the following characteristics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resiliency</td>
<td>Capacity to return to a restorative level of functioning using compensatory/coping mechanisms; the ability to bounce back quickly after an insult.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vulnerability</td>
<td>Susceptibility to actual or potential stressors that may adversely affect patient outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stability</td>
<td>Ability to maintain a steady-state equilibrium.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complexity</td>
<td>Intricate entanglement of two or more systems (e.g., body, family, therapies).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Availability</td>
<td>Extent of resources (e.g., technical, fiscal, personal, psychological and social) the patient/family/community bring to the situation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Care</td>
<td>Extent to which patient/family engages in aspects of care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Decision Making</td>
<td>Extent to which patient/family engages in decision making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predictability</td>
<td>A characteristic that allows one to expect a certain course of events or course of illness.</td>
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</table>

FOR EXAMPLE:

A healthy, uninsured, 40-year-old woman undergoing a pre-employment physical could be described as an individual who is (a) stable (b) not complex (c) very predictable (d) resilient (e) not vulnerable (f) able to participate in decision making and care, but (g) has inadequate resource availability.

On the other hand: a critically ill, insured infant with multisystem organ failure can be described as an individual who is (a) unstable (b) highly complex (c) unpredictable (d) highly resilient (e) vulnerable (f) unable to become involved in decision making and care, but (g) has adequate resource availability.

continued
**Nurse Characteristics**

Nursing care reflects an integration of knowledge, skills, abilities and experience necessary to meet the needs of patients and families. Thus, nurse characteristics are derived from patient needs and include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nurse Characteristics</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Judgment</strong></td>
<td>Clinical reasoning, which includes clinical decision making, critical thinking and a global grasp of the situation, coupled with APRN skills acquired through a process of integrating formal and informal experiential knowledge and evidence-based guidelines. Includes differential diagnosis.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em><em>Advocacy</em>/Moral Agency</em></td>
<td>APRN activities that create a compassionate, supportive and therapeutic environment for patients and staff, with the aim of promoting comfort and healing and preventing unnecessary suffering. Includes but is not limited to vigilance, engagement and responsiveness of caregivers, including family and healthcare personnel. Content in this category includes pain management, infection control, risk assessment and the nurse practitioner/patient relationship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caring Practices</strong></td>
<td>APrN activities that create a compassionate, supportive and therapeutic environment for patients and staff, with the aim of promoting comfort and healing and preventing unnecessary suffering. Includes but is not limited to vigilance, engagement and responsiveness of caregivers, including family and healthcare personnel. Content in this category includes pain management, infection control, risk assessment and the nurse practitioner/patient relationship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collaboration</strong></td>
<td>Working with others (e.g., patients, families, healthcare providers) in a way that promotes/encourages each person's contributions toward achieving optimal/realistic patient/family goals. Includes initiating referrals, providing consultation and the coordination of inter- and intradisciplinary teams to develop or revise plans of care focused on patient and/or family concerns.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Systems Thinking</strong></td>
<td>Body of knowledge and tools that allow the APrN to manage whatever environmental and system resources exist for the patient/family and staff, within or across healthcare and non-healthcare systems. Includes analysis and promotion of cost-effective resource utilization that results in optimal patient outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response to Diversity</strong></td>
<td>The sensitivity to recognize, appreciate and incorporate differences into the provision of care. Differences may include, but are not limited to, cultural differences, spiritual beliefs, gender, race, ethnicity, lifestyle, socioeconomic status, age and values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilitation of Learning</strong></td>
<td>The ability to facilitate learning for patients/families, nursing staff, other members of the healthcare team and community. Includes both formal and informal facilitation of learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Inquiry</strong></td>
<td>The ongoing process of questioning and evaluating practice and providing informed practice. Creating practice changes through research utilization and experiential learning.</td>
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</table>

Nurses become competent within each continuum at a level that best meets the fluctuating needs of their population of patients. More compromised patients have more severe or complex needs, requiring nurses to have advanced knowledge and skills in an associated continuum.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

If the gestalt of a patient were stable but unpredictable, minimally resilient and vulnerable, primary competencies of the nurse would be centered on clinical judgment and caring practices (which includes vigilance). If the gestalt of a patient were vulnerable, unable to participate in decision making and care, and inadequate resource availability, the primary competencies of the nurse would focus on advocacy and moral agency, collaboration and systems thinking.

Although all eight competencies are essential for contemporary nursing practice, each assumes more or less importance depending on a patient’s characteristics. **Synergy results when a patient’s needs and characteristics are matched with the nurse’s competencies.**

The certification program is also based on the three spheres of influence in which NPs operate: Patient, Nurses/Nursing Practice and Organizations/Systems. A sphere of influence identifies the focus of practice activities and target outcomes associated with the area. The certification exam is based on the activities performed by NPs in connection with the eight nurse characteristics in the context of the three spheres of influence.

Based on the most recent AACN Certification Corporation job analysis completed in 2011, the test plans for AACN certification exams reflect the Synergy Model as well as findings related to nursing care of the patient population studied, e.g., ACNP practice in the care of adult-gerontology patients.
ACNPC-AG RENEWAL AUDIT

In compliance with standard regulatory practices, AACN Certification Corporation conducts random audits following certificants’ successful renewal. Certificants are not notified in advance when being audited.

Certificants selected for audit are notified via mail and have a period of 60 days to submit the required verification materials, which include:

- copy of RN or APRN license
- CE Renewal Points Log
- copies of course certificates
- form to verify clinical hours

Failure to respond to or pass an audit may result in revocation of certification. Revocation may include notification of the candidate’s employer and state board of nursing, as appropriate.

Certificants who successfully complete ACNPC-AG renewal should continue to keep personal records of CE Renewal Point activities for at least 5 years to submit in the event that an audit is performed.

AACN Certification Corporation reserves the right to conduct additional audits as necessary.

REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION

AACN Certification Corporation may revoke certification, or renewal of certification may be denied, for any reason deemed appropriate including, but not limited to, the following:

- Falsification of a certification exam application or renewal application
- Falsification of any information provided to AACN Certification Corporation
- Failure to meet/maintain eligibility requirements
- Failure to pay fees
- Failure to meet deadlines
- Failure to respond to or pass an audit
- Misrepresentation of certification status
- Conviction of a felony

- Cheating (or reasonable evidence of intent to cheat) on an exam
- Sharing exam content
- Restrictions placed on RN or APRN licensure during the certification period

Certificants must notify AACN Certification Corporation within 30 days if any restriction is placed on their RN or APRN license.

In the event of revocation, notification may be sent to your employer and state board of nursing, where appropriate. You will be notified that you may be prohibited from reapplying for an AACN exam for a period of up to 3 years.

Fees paid for certification renewal are not refunded.
REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCESS

The review and appeal process is available to individuals whose certification status has expired, or has been denied or revoked. The review process is conducted by the staff of AACN Certification Corporation and the appeal process by the AACN Certification Corporation Appeals Panel.

If you do not meet the AACN Certification Corporation experience component of the clinical practice eligibility requirement but believe your practice conforms to the intent, if not the precise content and definition of the experience requirement, you may submit a request for review. Your written request should describe your clinical practice and how it conforms to the certification program.

You may request a review of your eligibility at any time.

Please email your request for review to:

certification@aacn.org

Or mail to:

Certification Specialist
AACN Certification Corporation
101 Columbia
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Following the review process, if AACN Certification Corporation staff affirms the decision to deny or revoke certification, information about the appeal process will be sent to you.

Requests for appeal should include the following:

- The reason(s) you believe the expiration, denial or revocation of certification should be reconsidered
- Any additional information or documentation requested during the review process that was not submitted, if applicable
- The outcome you are requesting

Upon receipt of a request for appeal, the Appeals Panel will review the case at its next scheduled appeals review. Individuals will be notified in writing of the Appeals Panel’s decision. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final.

For questions about the review and appeal process, please call AACN Certification Corporation at (800) 899-2226.
### APPLICATION – ACNPC-AG RENEWAL BY PRACTICE HOURS AND CE POINTS

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**  
**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. PROCESSING WILL BE DELAYED IF INCOMPLETE OR NOT LEGIBLE.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AACN CUSTOMER #:</th>
<th>MEMBERSHIP EXP. DATE:</th>
<th>ACNPC-AG EXP. DATE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**LEGAL NAME:**

- Last
- First
- MI
- Maiden

**HOME ADDRESS:**

- City
- State
- ZIP

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

- HOME PHONE:

**EMPLOYER NAME:**

- BUSINESS PHONE:

**EMPLOYER ADDRESS:**

- City
- State
- ZIP

### RENEWAL FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACNPC-AG Renewal by Practice Hours and CE Points</th>
<th>AACN Member</th>
<th>Nonmember</th>
<th>Renewal + 1 Year Membership</th>
<th>Renewal + 2 Year Membership</th>
<th>Renewal + 3 Year Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check one box only.</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>$260</td>
<td>$258</td>
<td>$328</td>
<td>$380</td>
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</table>

AACN membership includes nonrefundable $12 and $15 one-year subscriptions to Critical Care Nurse® and the American Journal of Critical Care®, respectively. AACN dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes, but may be deducted as a business expense in keeping with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

- Please do not include my name on such lists sold to other organizations.

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check or money order attached – payable to AACN Certification Corporation. U.S. funds only.
- Bill my credit card
  - Visa
  - MasterCard
  - American Express
  - Discover Card

**Credit Card #**

- Exp. Date (mm/yy)

**Name on Card**

- Signature

**Amount Billed**

- Address of Payor (if different than applicant)

### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Select ONE in each category. This information is used for statistical purposes and may be used in eligibility determinations.

#### Primary Area Employed

- Acute Hemodialysis Unit (21)
- Burn Unit (13)
- Cardiac Rehabilitation (26)
- Cardiac Surgery/OR (36)
- Cardiovascular/Surg. ICU (09)
- Catheterization Lab (22)
- Combined Adult/Ped. ICU (23)
- Combined ICU/CCU (01)
- Coronary Care Unit (03)
- Corporate Industry (24)
- Critical Care Transport/Flight (17)
- Direct Observation Unit (39)
- Emergency Dept. (12)
- General Medical/Surgical Floor (18)
- Home Care (25)
- Intensive Care Unit (02)
- Interventional Cardiology (31)
- Long-Term Acute Care (27)
- Medical Cardiology (34)
- Medical ICU (04)
- Medical Surgical ICU (35)
- Neonatal ICU (06)
- Neurom/Neurosurgical ICU (10)
- Oncology Unit (19)
- Operating Room (15)
- Outpatient Clinic (29)
- Pediatric ICU (05)
- Private Practice (32)
- Progressive Care Unit (16)
- Recovery Room/PACU (14)
- Respiratory ICU (08)
- Stepdown Unit (30)
- Subacute Care (28)
- Surgical ICU (07)
- Tele-ICU (37)
- Telemetry (20)
- Trauma Unit (11)
- Other – specify below

#### Primary Position Held

- Academic Faculty (07)
- Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (09)
- Bedside/Staff Nurse (01)
- Case Manager (39)
- Charge Nurse (45)
- Clinical Nurse (40)
- Clinical Coordinator (44)
- Clinical Director (04)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist (08)
- Corporate/Industry (11)
- Hospital Administrator (38)
- Internist (37)
- Legal Nurse Consultant (47)
- Manager (03)
- Nurse Anesthetist (02)
- Nurse Educator (46)
- Nurse Midwife (13)
- Nurse Practitioner (05)
- Outcomes Manager (42)
- Physician (16)
- Physician Assistant (17)
- Researcher (18)
- Respiratory Therapist (19)
- Technician (21)
- Unit Coordinator (22)
- Other – specify below

#### Highest Nursing Degree

- Associate’s Degree
- Bachelor’s Degree
- Diploma
- Doctorate
- Master’s Degree

#### Ethnicity

- African American (02)
- Asian (05)
- Hispanic (03)
- Native American (04)
- Other – specify below

#### Primary Type of Facility in Which Employed

- College/University (08)
- Community Hospital (Nonprofit) (01)
- Community Hosp. (Profit) (02)
- Corporate/Industry (11)
- County Hospital (07)
- Federal Hospital (05)
- HMO/Managed Care (12)
- Home Health (13)
- Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (16)
- Military/Government Hospital (04)
- Non-Academic Teaching Hospital (14)
- Other – specify below

#### Years of Experience in Nursing:

- (mm/dd/yy)

#### Years of Experience in Acute/Critical Care Nursing:

- (mm/dd/yy)

#### Date of Birth:

- Gender:
  - Female
  - Male

If you are not able to select Acute Care Nurse Practitioner under “Primary Position Held,” please complete and attach the ACNPC-AG Practice Validation Form on pages 11-14. If your “Primary Area Employed” is not a unit that typically houses acutely ill patients, please indicate on which units your direct care of acutely ill patients has taken place.

Please complete second page of application
I hereby apply for ACNPC-AG certification renewal. Submission of this application indicates I understand and have met the eligibility requirements as documented in the ACNPC-AG Renewal Handbook and the Certification Exam Policy Handbook.

**LICENSURE:** I possess a current, unencumbered U.S. RN or APRN license. My ______________________ (state) nursing license ______________________ (number) is due to expire ______________________ (date). During this last certification period, no license I’ve held was subjected to formal discipline by any state board of nursing and no provisions/conditions have limited my practice in any way. I understand that I must notify AACN Certification Corporation within 30 days if disciplinary action is taken against any RN or APRN license I hold.

**PRACTICE:** I understand that a significant component of APRN practice focuses on direct care of individuals. During this last certification period I have completed 1,000 hours as an APRN within the U.S. in the care of acutely ill adult-gerontology patients in the role of the acute care nurse practitioner.

**PRACTICE VERIFICATION:** Following is the contact information of my supervisor or a professional colleague (RN or physician) who can verify that I have met the practice hour requirements:

**VERIFIER’S NAME:**
Last  First

**FACILITY NAME:**

**VERIFIER’S PHONE NUMBER:**
Last  First

**VERIFIER’S EMAIL:**

_You may not list yourself or a relative as your verifier._

**CONTINUED COMPETENCE:** During this last certification period, I completed 150 CE Renewal Points, with at least 75 in the area of Acute Care Education Programs and 25 in pharmacology.

**AUDIT:** I understand that my certification renewal is subject to audit, and failure to respond to or pass an audit will result in revocation of certification.

**ETHICS:** I understand the importance of ethical standards and agree to act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

**NON-DISCLOSURE OF EXAM CONTENT:** Submission of this application indicates my agreement to keep the contents of the exam confidential and not disclose or discuss specific exam content with anyone except AACN Certification Corporation. Per AACN Certification Corporation policy, sharing of exam content is cause for revocation of certification.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application and all supporting documentation is accurate and submitted in good faith. My signature below indicates I have read this honor statement and meet the requirements as outlined.

**APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**

**SUBMIT APPLICATION AND FEE:** Mail application with payment to:

DO NOT fax AND mail your application. Please use only ONE method to submit your application.

Please allow 2 to 4 weeks from the date received by AACN Certification Corporation for the processing of your application.

Questions? Please visit www.certcorp.org, email APRNcert@aacn.org or call us at (800) 899-2226.
### APPLICATION – ACNPC-AG RENEWAL
BY PRACTICE HOURS, PHARMACOLOGY CE AND EXAM

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

- **AACN CUSTOMER #:**
- **MEMBERSHIP EXP. DATE:**
- **ACNPC-AG EXP. DATE:**
- **LEGAL NAME:**
- **HOME ADDRESS:**
- **EMAIL ADDRESS:**
- **EMPLOYER ADDRESS:**
- **EMPLOYER NAME:**

**RENEWAL FEES**

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<th>ACNPAG Renewal by Practice Hours and Exam</th>
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<th>Renewal + 2 Year Membership</th>
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Please do not include my name on such lists sold to other organizations.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

- □ Check or money order attached – payable to AACN Certification Corporation. U.S. funds only.
- □ Bill my credit card □ Visa □ MasterCard □ American Express □ Discover Card
- **Credit Card #:**
- **Exp. Date (mm/yy):**
- **Name on Card:**
- **Signature:**
- **Amount Billed $**
- **Address of Payor (if different than applicant):**

**DEMOCRATIC INFORMATION**

Select ONE in each category. This information is used for statistical purposes and may be used in eligibility determination.

**Primary Area Employed**
- □ Acute Hemodialysis Unit (21)
- □ Burn Unit (13)
- □ Cardiac Rehabilitation (26)
- □ Cardiac Surgery/OR (36)
- □ Cardiovascular/Surg. ICU (09)
- □ Catheterization Lab (22)
- □ Combined Adult/Ped. ICU (23)
- □ Combined ICU/CCU (01)
- □ Coronary Care Unit (03)
- □ Corporate Industry (24)
- □ Critical Care Transport/Flight (17)
- □ Direct Observation Unit (39)
- □ Emergency Dept. (12)
- □ General Medical/Surgical Floor (18)
- □ Home Care (25)
- □ Intensive Care Unit (02)
- □ Interventional Cardiology (31)
- □ Long-Term Acute Care (27)
- □ Medical Cardiology (34)
- □ Medical ICU (04)
- □ Medical Surgical ICU (35)
- □ Neonatal ICU (06)
- □ Neuro./Neurosurgical ICU (10)
- □ Oncology Unit (19)
- □ Operating Room (15)
- □ Outpatient Clinic (29)
- □ Pediatric ICU (05)
- □ Private Practice (32)
- □ Progressive Care Unit (16)
- □ Recovery Room/PACU (14)
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- □ Stepdown Unit (30)
- □ Subacute Care (28)
- □ Surgical ICU (07)
- □ Tele-ICU (37)
- □ Telemetry (20)
- □ Trauma Unit (11)
- □ Other – specify below (99)

**Primary Position Held**
- □ Academic Faculty (07)
- □ Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (09)
- □ Bedside/Staff Nurse (01)
- □ Case Manager (39)
- □ Charge Nurse (45)
- □ Clinic Nurse (40)
- □ Clinical Coordinator (44)
- □ Clinical Director (04)
- □ Clinical Nurse Specialist (08)
- □ Associate’s Degree (99)
- □ Bachelor’s Degree (99)
- □ Doctorate (99)
- □ Master’s Degree (99)

**Ethnicity**
- □ African American (02)
- □ Asian (05)
- □ Hispanic (03)
- □ Native American (04)
- □ Pacific Islander (06)
- □ White/Non-Hispanic (01)
- □ Other – specify below (99)

**Primary Type of Facility in Which Employed**
- □ College/University (08)
- □ Community Hospital (Nonprofit) (01)
- □ Community Hosp. (Profit) (02)
- □ Corporate/Industry (11)
- □ County Hospital (07)
- □ Federal Hospital (05)
- □ Federal/Military Hospital (16)
- □ Home Health (13)
- □ Other – specify below (99)

**Number of Beds in Institution:**

**Years of Experience in Nursing:**

**Years of Experience in Acute/Critical Care Nursing:**

**Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yy):**

**Gender:** □ Female □ Male

If you are not able to select Acute Care Nurse Practitioner under “Primary Position Held,” please complete and attach the ACNPC-AG Practice Validation Form on pages 11-14. If your “Primary Area Employed” is not a unit that typically houses acutely ill patients, please indicate on which units your direct care of acutely ill patients has taken place.

Please complete second page of application.
I hereby apply for ACNPC-AG certification renewal. Submission of this application indicates I understand and have met the eligibility requirements as documented in the ACNPC-AG Renewal Handbook and the Certification Exam Policy Handbook.

**Licensure:** I possess a current, unencumbered U.S. RN or APRN license. My ________________________________ (state) nursing license ________________________________ (number) is due to expire ________________________________ (date). During this last certification period, no license I’ve held was subjected to formal discipline by any state board of nursing and no provisions/conditions have limited my practice in any way. I understand that I must notify AACN Certification Corporation within 30 days if disciplinary action is taken against any RN or APRN license I hold.

**Practice:** I understand that a significant component of APRN practice focuses on direct care of individuals. During this last certification period I have completed 1,000 hours within the U.S. as an APRN in the care of acutely ill adult-gerontology patients in the role of the acute care nurse practitioner.

**Practice Verification:** Following is the contact information of my supervisor or a professional colleague (RN or physician) who can verify that I have met the clinical practice hour requirements:

**Continued Competence:** During this last certification period, I completed 25 Pharmacology CE.

**Audit:** I understand that my certification renewal is subject to audit, and failure to respond to or pass an audit will result in revocation of certification.

**Ethics:** I understand the importance of ethical standards and agree to act in a manner congruent with the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

**Non-Disclosure of Exam Content:** Submission of this application indicates my agreement to keep the content of the exam confidential and not disclose or discuss specific exam content with anyone except AACN Certification Corporation. Per AACN Certification Corporation policy, sharing of exam content is cause for revocation of certification.

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**Applicant’s Signature:**

---

**refer to other handbooks:** The ACNPC-AG Exam Handbook contains the current test plan, study references and sample questions. The Certification Exam Policy Handbook contains testing site and scheduling information and day of exam rules.

**Submit Application and Fee:** Mail application with payment to:


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Questions? Please visit www.certcorp.org, email APRNcert@aacn.org or call us at (800) 899-2226.
## APPLICATION – ACNPC-AG RENEWAL BY CE POINTS AND EXAM

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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**LEGAL NAME:**

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### RENEWAL FEES

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### PAYMENT INFORMATION

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Bill my credit card  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover Card

**Credit Card #**

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**Name on Card**

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**Amount Billed $**

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### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Select ONE in each category. This information is used for statistical purposes and may be used in eligibility determination.

#### Primary Area Employed

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- ☐ Burn Unit (13)
- ☐ Cardiac Rehabilitation (26)
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- ☐ Surgical ICU (07)
- ☐ Tele-ICU (37)
- ☐ Telemetry (20)
- ☐ Trauma Unit (11)
- ☐ Other - specify below

#### Primary Position Held

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- ☐ Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (09)
- ☐ Case Manager (39)
- ☐ Chargé Nurse (45)
- ☐ Clinical Coordinator (44)
- ☐ Clinical Director (04)
- ☐ Clinical Nurse Specialist (08)
- ☐ Corporate/Industry (11)
- ☐ Hospital Administrator (38)
- ☐ Internist (37)
- ☐ Legal Nurse Consultant (47)
- ☐ Manager (03)
- ☐ Nurse Anesthetist (02)
- ☐ Nurse Educator (46)
- ☐ Nurse Midwife (13)
- ☐ Nurse Practitioner (05)
- ☐ Outcomes Manager (42)
- ☐ Physician (16)
- ☐ Physician Assistant (17)
- ☐ Researcher (18)
- ☐ Respiratory Therapy (19)
- ☐ Technician (21)
- ☐ Unit Coordinator (22)
- ☐ Other - specify below

#### Highest Nursing Degree

- ☐ Associate’s Degree
- ☐ Bachelor’s Degree
- ☐ Diploma
- ☐ Doctorate
- ☐ Master’s Degree

#### Ethnicity

- ☐ African American (02)
- ☐ Asian (05)
- ☐ Hispanic (03)
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- ☐ Pacific Islander (06)
- ☐ White/Non-Hispanic (01)
- ☐ Other - specify below

#### Number of Beds

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#### Years of Experience in Nursing:

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#### Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yy)

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#### Gender:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male

Please complete second page of application
OPTION 3
HONOR STATEMENT – ACNPC-AG RENEWAL
BY CE POINTS AND EXAM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

NAME: ___________________________________________ AACN CUSTOMER #: ________________________________________
Last First MI

I hereby apply for ACNPC-AG certification renewal. Submission of this application indicates I understand and have met the eligibility requirements as documented in the ACNPC-AG Renewal Handbook and the Certification Exam Policy Handbook.

LICENSURE: I possess a current, unencumbered U.S. RN or APRN license. My _________________________________ (state) nursing license __________________________________ (number) is due to expire _______________________________ (date).

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APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE: ___________________ DATE: ______________

REFER TO OTHER HANDBOOKS: The ACNPC-AG Exam Handbook contains the current test plan, study references and sample questions. The Certification Exam Policy Handbook contains testing site and scheduling information and day of exam rules.

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