Practice Decision Tree – CCRN Exam vs. CCRN-K Exam

In your practice do you exclusively or primarily provide direct care to acutely/critically ill patients?

YES

Have you practiced as RN or APRN for 1,750 hours in direct patient care during the last 2 years, with 875 of those hours in the most recent year

OR

for at least 5 years with a minimum of 2,000 hours in direct patient care, with 144 of those hours in the most recent year?*

YES

CCRN exam

NO

Not eligible

NO

In your practice, do you apply knowledge in a way that influences patients, nurses and/or organizations to have a positive impact on the care delivered to acutely/critically ill patients?

YES

Have you practiced as an RN or APRN for 1,040 hours within the last 2 years, with 260 of those hours in the most recent year?*

YES

CCRN-K exam

NO

Not eligible

NO

Not eligible

Nurses serving as manager, educator, APRN or preceptor may apply hours spent supervising nursing students or nurses at the bedside toward the clinical/direct care hour requirement for the CCRN exam. Nurses who exclusively or primarily provide direct care (e.g., staff/bedside nurses, ACNPs) are not eligible for CCRN-K. CCRN-K is for nurses who in their practice influence patients, nurses and/or organizations to have a positive impact on the care delivered to acutely/critically ill patients, but do not primarily provide direct care.

*A majority of the total practice hours and those within the year prior to application for CCRN or CCRN-K exam eligibility must focus on critically ill patients.

More information about Initial CCRN-K certification

For detailed eligibility requirements, refer to the CCRN-K Exam Handbook.