

Certification Examination Application Booklet

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Mission

The Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) exists to establish credentialing mechanisms to promote patient safety and to improve the quality of care provided to patients with kidney disease.

Philosophy

The Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission supports the philosophy that there should be a diversity of examinations that will effectively provide the opportunity for certification at various levels of education, experience, and areas of practice within nephrology nursing.

Purpose

To improve and maintain the quality of professional nephrology nursing care through the development, administration, and supervision of a certification program in nephrology nursing. To engage in any and all necessary and lawful activities to implement the foregoing purpose and to exercise all powers and authority now or hereafter conferred upon not-for-profit corporations under the laws of the state of New Jersey.

About NNCC

Formerly known as the Nephrology Nursing Certification Board (NNCB), the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) was established in 1987 for the purpose of promoting the highest standards of nephrology nursing practice through the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of all aspects of the certification and recertification processes. The NNCC is national in scope, is separately incorporated, and is an independent organization that collaborates with the Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET) in test development, test administration, and test evaluation. The Commission is comprised of registered nurses with content expertise in nephrology nursing.

The development of certification examinations for the specialty of nephrology nursing is based on the Dreyfus Model of Skill Acquisition as adapted by Patricia Benner, RN, PhD to clinical nursing practice. The model is founded on descriptive research that identifies five levels of clinical nursing practice, also referred to as levels of professional development. These levels – novice, advanced beginner, competent, proficient, and expert – were described in the words of nurses who were interviewed and observed either individually or in small groups. The levels of professional development address the scope of nursing practice not the quality of a nurse's performance. The NNCC bases the development of its examinations on practice analyses that define the scope and description of professional nursing practice in nephrology.

The Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) examination was created to test the broad scope of nephrology nursing

practice at a proficient level. The Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN) examination was created to test entry-level nephrology nurses practicing at a competent level in the dialysis setting. The Certified Nephrology Nurse - Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) Examination was created to test nurse practitioners practicing in all nephrology settings at a competent level. These examinations are endorsed by the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA). In addition, the NNCC continues to regularly collect data through national practice surveys regarding the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nurses practicing in nephrology settings.

In 1997, a joint task force was created by ANNA and the National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists (NANT) to improve the education, training, and competency assessment of unlicensed personnel working in dialysis facilities. The task force developed a standardized program for education and training of hemodialysis technicians. Following this, a special committee was created to develop an entry-level competency test. The NNCC, as an examination board, was asked to administer the test and certify hemodialysis technicians for initial competencies in knowledge, skills, and abilities. The test, known as the Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) examination, is endorsed by ANNA and NANT, and is regularly updated using national data from job surveys.

The Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET) was chosen by the NNCC to provide testing and evaluation services to meet nephrology nursing's assessment needs. The NNCC and C-NET conduct practice analyses of nephrology nursing practice and job analyses of hemodialysis technicians. Collaboratively, NNCC and C-NET develop and administer examinations to nephrology caregivers.

The NNCC believes that the attainment of a common knowledge base, utilization of the nursing process, and a predetermined level of skill in the practice setting are required for practice in nephrology nursing. Certification exists primarily to benefit the public, and the NNCC believes that nurses and technicians providing care to patients with kidney disease should demonstrate a minimum level of knowledge, skills, and abilities. Certification also provides professional recognition for these achievements. The Commission recognizes the value of education, administration, research, and clinical practice in fostering personal and professional growth and provides examinations to validate this performance.

ABNS and ABSNC Accreditation

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS), established in 1991, is a not-for-profit, membership organization focused on consumer protection and improving patient outcomes by promoting specialty nursing certification. The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), formerly the ABNS Accreditation Council, is the only accrediting body specifically for nursing certification. ABSNC accreditation is a peer-review mecha-

nism that allows nursing certification organizations to obtain accreditation by demonstrating compliance with the highest quality standards in the industry.

The NNCC is a charter member of the ABNS and the Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) certification program was one of the first national certification programs to be recognized and accredited.

Deadlines, Cancellations, and Rescheduling

The completed application and appropriate fee must be postmarked no later than the deadline date specified on the examination schedule, which can be found on the NNCC website at www.nncc-exam.org. Applications will be accepted for an additional two weeks beyond the postmark deadline date with the addition of a late fee. **No exceptions will be made to this policy.**

Paper/Pencil Exam

Cancellations will be accepted until two (2) weeks prior to the examination and a refund will be sent minus an application processing fee. Cancellations after that time will not be refunded; however, the examination can be rescheduled for a date during the following twelve (12) months only. There is a fee to reschedule an examination. Requests to reschedule must be submitted in writing to C-NET, 601 Pavonia Avenue, Suite 201, Jersey City, NJ 07306.

Computer-Based Exam

The applicant must call the computer testing agency at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled examination. The phone number is listed on the permit letter. If cancellation is less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled examination, the applicant must call C-NET directly at 800.463.0786, and an additional fee will be charged.

Refund requests for computer-based examinations must be received by C-NET at least two (2) weeks before the original testing period ends. A refund will be sent minus the application processing fee. Cancellations after that time will not be refunded; however, the examination can be rescheduled for a date during the following twelve (12) months only.

Change of Name and Address

The applicant will not be able to request a name change after the examination permits have been issued. The name that the applicant used on the certification examination application form is the name that is submitted to the Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET) for test administration.

When the applicant appears at the test site, the name on the examination permit must match the other forms of identification. The applicant will not be allowed to sit for the examination without proper identification.

If an applicant changes his or her name and/or address, the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) should be notified in writing, by fax, or by email.

Disability Accommodations

NNCC and C-NET will make special testing arrangements to accommodate applicants with the following special needs:

- Documented disabilities that interfere with test taking (e.g., reading or learning disorders)
- Documented religious convictions that preclude Saturday testing

If you wish to make such arrangements, you must notify C-NET in writing at least six (6) weeks before the scheduled test date so that documentation can be completed and special arrangements can be made.

Examination Permit

Paper/Pencil Exam

Upon approval of an examination application, the applicant will receive an examination permit from C-NET. The permit will include the examination date, examination site address, and the time to report to the examination site.

If an examination permit is not received within seven (7) days prior to the examination date, notify C-NET at 800.463.0786. If an examination permit is lost, C-NET should be notified immediately.

- Applicants will not be admitted to the examination without an examination permit.
- Substitution of an applicant cannot be made and no such requests will be honored.

Computer-Based Exam

Upon approval of an examination application, the applicant will receive a letter from C-NET which will serve as an examination permit. The letter will include a toll-free number that the applicant must call to establish a date and time to take the examination and to locate a computer center where the exam will be held. The site, appointment date, and time will be confirmed by a follow-up email to the applicant.

If the applicant does not receive an approval letter within 6 - 8 weeks of submission, notify C-NET at 800-463-0786.

- Applicants will not be admitted to the examination without the examination permit.
- Substitution of an applicant can not be made and no such request will be honored.

Preparation for the Examination

Each exam item that is written has a supporting reference. The CDN Item Writers' Committee relies heavily on the following references and recommends their use in exam preparation.

Counts, C.S. (2008). *Core curriculum for nephrology nursing* (5th ed.). Pitman, NJ: American Nephrology Nurses' Association.

Molzahn, A., & Butera, E. (Eds.). (2006). *Contemporary nephrology nursing: Principles and practice* (2nd ed.). Pitman, NJ: American Nephrology Nurses' Association.

Axley, B. & Robbins, K.C. (2009). *Applying continuous quality improvement in clinical practice* (2nd ed.). Pitman, NJ: American Nephrology Nurses' Association.

Burrows-Hudson, S. & Prowant, B. (2005). *Nephrology nursing standards of practice and guidelines for care*. Pitman, NJ: American Nephrology Nurses' Association.

Nephrology Nursing Journal. The Journal of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association. The journals provide a wealth of information. Reading it should be a part of every nephrology nurse's effort to keep knowledge and practice current.

Kallenbach, J.Z., Gutch, C., Stoner, M., & Corea, A. (2005). *Review of hemodialysis for nurses and dialysis personnel*. (7th ed.). St. Louis: Elsevier Mosby.

Herget, M., Hossli, S., Schatell, D., Smith, L., & Wong, F. (2008). *Core curriculum for the dialysis technician a comprehensive review of hemodialysis* (4th ed.). Amgen, Inc., developed by the Medical Education Institute, Inc., Madison, WI.

Daugirdas, J.T., Blake, P.G., Ing, T.S. (2007). *Handbook of dialysis* (4th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins.

Nissenson, A.R. & Fine, R.N. (2008). *Handbook of dialysis therapy* (4th ed.). Philadelphia: Saunders Elsevier.

National Kidney Foundation (NKF). KDOQI clinical practice guidelines available on the NKF website.

Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative (FFBI). www.fistulafirst.org.

Conditions for Coverage and Conditions of Participation (April 15, 2008). <http://www.cms.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/ESRDfinalrule0415.pdf>.

The NNCC does not offer contact hours or review courses. A variety of publications, and continuing education activities designed to prepare individuals are available through the ANNA at www.annanurse.org or 888.600.2662.

Examination Objectives

1. Recognize pathologic processes and complications that occur in renal failure and/or treatment modalities.
2. Select interventions appropriate to the pathologic processes and complications that occur in kidney failure and/or treatment modalities.
3. Apply physiologic and technical principles of renal replacement therapies.
4. Select appropriate teaching/learning strategies to educate client, family, other health professionals and the public.
5. Select appropriate actions in administering medication(s) to the patient being treated for kidney disease.
6. Recognize the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to promote optimum functioning.
7. Select interventions appropriate to the psychological and sociocultural effects of kidney disease.
8. Apply principles of infection control.

9. Recognize the importance of professional nursing practice in promoting patient outcomes (e.g., consultation, staff development, quality improvement, and research).

Materials to Bring to the Examination

Applicants arriving at the examination site must present the following to the proctor when checking in:

- The original C-NET examination permit
 - Copies of the examination permit will not be accepted.
- A photo and signature bearing government issued identification card, (e.g., applicant's drivers license)
 - Applicants who appear without photo identification will not be permitted to sit for the examination.

The name appearing on the applicant's photo identification card must be the same as the name appearing on the examination permit.

Reference books, notes, or other study materials may not be brought into the examination room. Examination questions do not include calculations that require a calculator. Personal belongings must be placed away from the examinee's immediate testing area. All cell phones, pagers and other communication devices must be turned off and put away.

Taking the Examination

The certification examinations are multiple-choice tests. It is important to read each question carefully and choose the one answer that you think answers the question correctly. There is no penalty for guessing, so an educated guess is appropriate if you are unsure of the answer. Four (4) hours are allotted to complete the examination.

Inappropriate Behavior During the Examination

The performance of all examinees will be monitored. Any examinee who gives or receives assistance, or otherwise engages in dishonest or improper behavior during the examination, may be required to cease taking the examination and leave the examination site. The examination manager will notify the C-NET office of any inappropriate behavior. The C-NET personnel will then notify the NNCC Executive Director.

After reviewing a reported incident, the NNCC will determine whether there is reason to allow the individual to retake the examination, refuse to release test results, or revoke the individual's eligibility to sit for future examinations.

Any individual who removes or attempts to remove materials from the examination site, or who discloses, reproduces, distributes, or otherwise misuses a test question from a certification examination, may face legal action.

Examination Results and Notification

Paper/Pencil Exam

Applicants will be notified of their scores approximately 4-6 weeks after test administration. C-NET will mail all examination scores to the examinee.

- A total score will be provided for examinees who successfully pass the examination.
- Approximately 75% of the test items must be answered correctly to receive a passing score.
- A total score and subscores in all the major test areas of concentration will be provided for examinees who do not pass the examination.

Computer-Based Exam

Scores will be available immediately upon completion of the examination.

- A total score will be provided for examinees who successfully pass the examination.
- Approximately 75% of the test items must be answered correctly to receive a passing score.
- A total score and subscores in all the major test areas of concentration will be provided for examinees who do not pass the examination.

Confidentiality

To insure the security of the examination, the test materials are confidential and will not be released to any person or agency. An applicant's individual test results will be released only upon the applicant's written request. The NNCC reserves the right to post a successful applicant's name and certification expiration date on the NNCC website. Names are posted by state of residence.

Recognition of Certification

Certification is awarded to those who successfully complete the certification process by meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a written multiple-choice examination. The designated credential is Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN) and is valid for three (3) years from the last day of the month in which the certificant passed the examination. The credential may be used in all professional activities and correspondence.

Wall Certificate and Wallet Card

The NNCC will mail out to all successful examinees a packet containing a wall certificate suitable for framing and a wallet card displaying an expiration date. Only one wall certificate will be issued; however, a new wallet card will be provided after each successful recertification.

Denial/Revocation of Certification

The occurrence of any of the following actions will result in the denial, suspension, or revocation of the certification:

- Falsification of the NNCC application
- Falsification of any materials or information requested by the NNCC
- Any restrictions such as revocation, suspension, probation, or other sanctions of professional RN license by nursing authority
- Misrepresentation of certification status
- Cheating on the examination

The NNCC reserves the right to investigate all suspected/reported violations and, if appropriate, notify the individual's employer/State Board of Nursing.

The applicant will be notified in writing of the NNCC's decision(s)/action(s).

Appeal Process

An applicant who has been denied certification, failed an examination, or had certification revoked has the right of appeal. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the President of the NNCC within thirty (30) days of notification. The appeal shall state specific reasons why the applicant feels entitled to certification. At the applicant's request, the President shall appoint a committee of three (3) NNCC members who will meet with the applicant and make recommendations to the NNCC. The committee will meet in conjunction with a regularly scheduled NNCC meeting. The applicant will be responsible for his/her own expenses. The final decision of the NNCC will be communicated in writing to the applicant within thirty (30) days following the NNCC meeting. Failure of the applicant to request an appeal or appear before the committee shall constitute a waiver of the applicant's right of appeal.

Reapplication Procedure

If an applicant does not pass the examination, he/she has one opportunity within one year to retake the examination at a reduced rate. C-NET will mail a re-examination application to those applicants who do not pass.



Certification Examination Application



Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission

**Nephrology Nursing
Certification Commission**

CDN U.S. Eligibility Criteria

1. The applicant must hold a full and unrestricted license as a registered nurse in the United States, or its territories.
2. The applicant must have completed a minimum of 2000 hours experience in nephrology nursing caring for patients who require dialysis as a registered nurse during the last two (2) years prior to submitting this application.
3. The applicant must have completed fifteen (15) contact hours of continuing education in nephrology nursing from approved providers within two (2) years prior to submitting this application.

Continuing education must be approved by one of the following:

- Organizations accredited by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center – Commission on Accreditation (ANCC-COA), the credentialing body of the American Nurses Association
 - For example, The American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA), which is both an accredited provider and approver of continuing education in nursing
- The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)
- The Council of Continuing Education
- California, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, or Ohio State Boards of Nursing*

*** Please be aware that although programs meet requirements set forth by other state boards of nursing, they may not meet the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission criteria.**

CDN International Eligibility Criteria

1. The applicant must hold a current, full and unrestricted license as a first-level general nurse in the country in which one's general nursing education was completed.
2. The applicant must meet the eligibility criteria for licensure as a registered nurse (RN) in the United States in accordance with requirements of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS).
3. The applicant must have completed a minimum of 2000 hours experience in nephrology nursing caring for patients on dialysis as a licensed nurse within the two (2) years prior to submitting the examination application.
4. The applicant must have completed fifteen (15) contact hours of continuing education credit in nephrology nursing within two (2) years prior to submitting the exam application.

No individual shall be excluded from the opportunity to participate in the NNCC certification program on the basis

of race, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.

CDN Examination Application Instructions

1. Complete all sections of the application. Be sure to include the last four (4) numbers of your social security number, since it will serve as your identification number.
2. Make certain your immediate supervisor completes the section on employment verification.
3. Attach to your application copies of contact hour certificates to total fifteen (15) nephrology related contact hours.
4. Attach to your application a photocopy of your current RN license. (If you are unable to obtain a photocopy of your license, submit a letter or printout from your state board of nursing verifying your licensure with license number and date of expiration).

Note: If the name on any of the above documents does not match your current name, proof of name change must be submitted.

Examination permits will be issued only to those applicants with complete applications.

Sample Test Questions

Ms. Nancy Scott, 45-years old, has been diagnosed with chronic kidney disease Stage 5. She is scheduled to begin hemodialysis treatments. Her vascular access is an arterial venous fistula in her left forearm. Her target weight has been established as 143 lb (65 kg).

1. Ms. Scott tells the nurse, "I'm really nervous about starting these treatments." The nurse should assess Ms. Scott for which of these physiologic responses to moderate anxiety?
 - a. Decreased heart rate.
 - b. Bronchial constriction.
 - c. Pupillary constriction.
 - d. Increased blood pressure.
2. Ms. Scott's access cannulation proceeds smoothly, and hemodialysis is initiated. One hour into treatment, Ms. Scott's high venous pressure alarm sounds. Which of these actions should the nurse take first?
 - a. Decrease the blood flow rate.
 - b. Check for kinks in the line.
 - c. Reposition the arterial needle.
 - d. Administer normal saline.

One month later, Ms. Scott comes for a scheduled hemodialysis treatment using a reprocessed dialyzer. Her weight is noted to be 154 lb (70 kg) predialysis.

3. When the treatment is started, Ms. Scott immediately complains of a burning sensation at the venous needle site. The nurse should stop the blood pump, since Ms. Scott's symptoms suggest which of these problems?
 - a. An allergic reaction.
 - b. Dialysis disequilibrium.
 - c. Residual sterilant infusion.
 - d. Steal syndrome.
4. After the problem is corrected, Ms. Scott's treatment proceeds. Towards the end of the treatment, Ms. Scott complains of muscle cramping. The most likely cause of Ms. Scott's cramping is
 - a. edema of her extremities.
 - b. increased blood pressure.
 - c. high serum potassium.
 - d. rapid fluid removal.

Answer Key: 1. d 2. b 3. c 4.d

Test Blueprint
Ideal Distribution of 200 Items in Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN) Examination

Objective Content	1 Path/Comp	2 Intervent	3 Phys/Tech	4 Teach	5 Meds	6 Interdisc	7 Psychosoc	8 Infection	9 Professional	Total
A Concepts of Renal Failure 30%	13-14	11-12	13-14	3-4	7-8	1-2	1-2	7-8	1-2	59-61 (30%)
B Hemodialysis 54%	23-24	20-24	23-24	6-7	12-13	2-3	3-4	12-13	2-3	107-109 (54%)
C Peritoneal Dialysis 12%	5-6	4-5	5-6	1-2	2-3	0-1	0-1	2-3	0-1	23-25 (12%)
D Transplant 4%	1-2	1-2	1-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	7-9 (4%)
Total	43-45 (22%)	37-39 (19%)	43-45 (22%)	11-13 (6%)	23-25 (12%)	3-5 (2%)	5-7 (3%)	23-25 (12%)	3-5 (2%)	200 (100%)

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☐ Check here if this is a recertification by examination application. Contact hours need not be submitted.



Examination Application

1. Choose **ONLY** one of the following exam options.
 - a. ☐ CBT (computer based testing)
 - Postmark applications at least four (4) weeks prior to date you wish to test.
 - If approved, you will receive a permit/letter with instructions on how to schedule an exam by appointment
 - b. ☐ Paper/Pencil Exam Date _____ Exam city and state _____
 - Postmarked on or before the application deadline date – ten (10) weeks prior to test date.
2. Application fee (check one): ☐ \$300 ANNA Member ☐ \$350 Non-member ☐ \$50 Late fee*
 * (paper/pencil only if postmarked within two (2) weeks after deadline date)
3. Payment method (check one): ☐ Check or money order ☐ Visa or MasterCard (see bottom of form)
4. Name _____
 Last Maiden First Middle
5. Last 4 digits of social security number _____ E-mail _____
6. How would you like your name to appear on your certificate? _____
7. Home/mailling address _____
 Street/P.O. Box City State Zip
8. Home phone _____ Work phone _____
9. RN license: State _____ Permanent number: _____
10. Date originally licensed as an RN _____ RN license expiration date _____
11. Years of experience as an RN in nephrology nursing: _____ years _____ months
12. Have you been employed as an RN in nephrology nursing at least 2,000 hours in the past two (2) years? ☐ Yes ☐ No
13. Highest level of education completed (choose one):

<input type="checkbox"/> Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> Baccalaureate Degree – Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree – Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree – Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Baccalaureate Degree – Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree – Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree – Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate
14. If you are successful on the examination, would you like us to notify your employer? ☐ Yes ☐ No
15. If YES, please mail notification to: _____

Credit Card Authorization Form

The NNCC accepts only Visa and MasterCard credit cards. Home telephone: _____

Name: _____ Work telephone: _____

Address: (as it appears on your credit card statement) Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard the amount of \$ _____

_____ Card number: _____ CVV _____

City: _____ Expiration date: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Authorized Signature

Revised 1/11

Employment History

Begin with your present employer. Only **nephrology-related** positions during the past two (2) years need to be documented. Please do not send resumes. (Use a blank sheet of paper if additional space is needed).

From Month/Year	To Month/Year	Employer name and Address	Position/Title	Supervisor	Hours Per Week

YOUR SUPERVISOR MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY:

As indicated above the applicant is/has been employed in nephrology nursing at for least 2,000 hours during the past two (2) years by _____

Employer

City

State

Zip

I further attest that the applicant is currently licensed as an RN in the state of _____

Supervisor's Signature

Date

Title

Facility/Institution

Phone

Fax

E-mail

The occurrence of any of the following actions will result in the denial, suspension, or revocation of the Certification:

- Falsification of the NNCC application
- Falsification of any materials or information requested by the NNCC
- Any restrictions such as revocation, suspension, probation, or other sanctions of professional RN license by nursing authority
- Misrepresentation of CDN status
- Cheating on the CDN examination

APPLICANT — PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BELOW:

I hereby attest that I have read and understand the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) policy on denial, suspension, or revocation of certification and that its terms shall be binding on all applicants for certification and all Certified Dialysis Nurses for the duration of their certification. I also hereby attest that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies stated on the NNCC website and in the most current Certification Application Booklet.

I hereby apply for certification offered by the NNCC. I understand that certification depends upon successful completion of the specified requirements. I further understand that the information obtained in the certification process may be used for statistical purposes and for evaluation of the certification program. I further understand that the information from my certification records shall be held in confidence and shall not be used for any other purpose without my permission; however, upon passing the examination, the NNCC reserves the right to publish my name and certification expiration date by state on the NNCC website. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true, complete, correct, and is made in good faith. I understand that the NNCC reserves the right to verify any or all information on this application.

Legal Signature

Date

CDN Application Checklist

Did you remember to ✓

- ☐ Complete the CDN examination application in its entirety?
- ☐ Attach clear copies of contact hour certificates to total 15 contact hours specific to nephrology?
- ☐ Attach a copy or a verification of your current RN license, with the expiration date clearly visible or a letter or printout from your state board of nursing verifying licensure with license number and date of expiration?
- ☐ Attach proof of name change if applicable?
- ☐ Include a check, money order, or credit card authorization form for the appropriate fee?
- ☐ Have your employer complete his/her portion of the application?
- ☐ Sign and date the application?
- ☐ Keep a copy of the application and supporting documents for your records?

Note: Examination permits are issued only to applicants with completed, approved applications

Contact hour certificates MUST include the following information:

- ☐ Name of attendee
- ☐ Date of program
- ☐ Name of program
- ☐ Number of contact hours awarded
- ☐ Accreditation statement

Programs MUST be accredited by one of the following:

- ☐ Organizations, accredited by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center – Commission on Accreditation (ANCC-COA), the credentialing body of the American Nurses' Association
For example: The American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) which is both an accredited provider and approver of continuing education in nursing
- ☐ The American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN)
- ☐ The Council of Continuing Education
- ☐ California, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, or Ohio State Boards of Nursing

Please be aware that although programs may meet requirements set forth by other state boards of nursing, they may not meet the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission criteria.

Mail completed application to:

NNCC
East Holly Avenue Box 56
Pitman, NJ 08071-0056

For a current examination schedule, please visit the NNCC website at:
www.nncc-exam.org



Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission

Certification: Your Commitment to Quality Care

Steps Toward Recertification for the Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN)

Notification/Expiration

As a courtesy, the NNCC will notify certificants at 120, 90, 60, 45, and 30 days prior to certification expiration. Ultimately it is the certificant's responsibility to obtain the necessary application form and submit it to the NNCC before the certification expiration date. The NNCC is not responsible for undelivered mail. **A recertification application may be obtained by visiting the NNCC website at www.nncc-exam.org or by calling 888.884.6622 and requesting one be mailed to you.** Your completed application, appropriate forms, copies of supporting materials, and fee(s) must be submitted as required. **Keep a copy of your recertification application and supporting materials for your records.** Certification expires on the last day of the month, three years from the original date of certification.

Recertification Options

You may meet the recertification requirements by choosing either the examination option or the continuing education option.

1. If you elect the examination option, you may test within the year prior to expiration of your current certification. You must submit an examination application form and fee prior to the postmark deadline date printed on the exam schedule. An examination application and examination schedule may be obtained by visiting the NNCC website at www.nncc-exam.org or by calling 888-884-6622. Processing of applications received after the deadline date cannot be guaranteed.
2. If you elect the continuing education option, you must submit a recertification application listing the required documentation of continuing education and the recertification fee. The application for recertification must be postmarked by the last day of the month in which your certification expires.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify you must be a Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN) and meet all of the eligibility requirements.

1. Must be a registered nurse holding a current, full and unrestricted license in the United States or its territories.
2. Must have at least two (2) years experience in nephrology nursing caring for patients who require dialysis as a registered nurse during the last three (3) years.
 - The work requirement includes a minimum of 1000 hours in the last three (3) years.
3. Must have spent at least fifty percent (50%) of employment hours in nephrology nursing caring for patients with kidney disease in meeting criteria #2.
 - Certificants enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree in nursing program may waive the work requirement for **one** recertification period.
 - Certificants must verify full time student status. Documentation must be on letterhead, signed by a school official, verifying matriculation and must be submitted with the recertification application.
4. Must have acquired 30 contact hours of nephrology nursing continuing education credit in the previous three (3) years.
 - Certificants enrolled full time in a baccalaureate degree in nursing program may apply all academic coursework in lieu of nephrology nursing continuing education for **one** recertification period.
 - Certificants enrolled in graduate nursing degree programs (master's or higher) may apply only nephrology related coursework toward the contact hour requirement.

International Eligibility Criteria:

1. The certificant must hold a current, full, and unrestricted license as a first-level general nurse in the country in which the general nursing education was completed.
2. The certificant must meet the eligibility criteria for licensure as a registered nurse in the United States in accordance with the requirements of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Schools (CGFNS).
3. The certificant must have at least two (2) years of experience in nephrology nursing caring for patients who require dialysis as a first-level general nurse during the last three (3) years.
 - The work requirement includes a minimum of 1000 hours in the previous three (3) years.
4. The certificant must have spent fifty percent (50%) of employment hours in nephrology nursing caring for patients on dialysis in meeting criterion #3.
5. The certificant must have acquired thirty (30) contact hours of nephrology nursing continuing education in the previous three (3) years.

Fees

Recertification application fees are non-refundable. Periodically fees are re-evaluated and adjustments may be made. Only NNCC Commissioners can authorize fee changes. The required fees are listed on the application forms.

Verification of Certification

If approved for recertification, certificants will receive a wallet card with expiration date within forty-five (45) days of the date the National Office receives a recertification application. Replacement cards are available for a fee.

Current Address

It is the **certificant's responsibility** to notify the NNCC National Office of any changes in name and/or address during the three (3) year period following certification/recertification. Notification of changes on other mailing lists, such as ANNA, will not effect a change in your recertification records.

Inactive Status

A Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN) may request inactive status if he/she is unable to meet the requirements for recertification. To apply for inactive status, the certificant must complete the application for inactive status (available on the NNCC website at www.nncc-exam.org or by calling 888.884.6622), submit a letter describing the reason, and submit the fee. If approved, inactive status will be granted for only one three (3) year period. During this time, the CDN credential may not be used. In order to recertify after the three (3) year inactive period, the criteria for regular recertification must be met and a recertification application must be submitted. Under no circumstance will the inactive period be extended beyond three (3) years.

Emeritus Status

Nurses who have maintained an active credential, who are over 50 years of age, and who have retired from active practice may apply for emeritus status. To apply for the retired credential the certificant must complete the application for Emeritus Status (available on the NNCC website at www.nncc-exam.org or by calling 888.884.6622) and submit a one time fee. If approved, the certificant may use the emeritus credential at nephrology nursing functions to acknowledge a previous active credential and the accomplishments it signifies. If the certificant chooses to return to active practice and wishes to again hold the active credential, he/she must meet current eligibility criteria and certify by examination.



Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)
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