



Certified Nephrology Nurse

Certification Examination Application



Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission

**Nephrology Nursing
Certification Commission**

CNN Eligibility Criteria

1. The applicant must hold a current, full, and unrestricted license as a registered nurse in the United States, or its territories.
2. The applicant must have a minimum of two (2) years of nephrology nursing experience as a registered nurse in a clinical, administrative, teaching, or research capacity, within three (3) years prior to submitting this application.
3. In meeting criterion #2, the applicant must have spent at least fifty percent of employment hours in nephrology nursing.
4. The applicant must possess a baccalaureate degree in nursing or a master's degree in nursing.
5. The applicant must have completed thirty (30) contact hours of continuing education in nephrology nursing from an approved provider within three (3) 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.**

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.

CNN Examination Application Instructions

1. Complete all sections of the application. Be sure to include the last four (4) digits 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 a copy of a baccalaureate degree in nursing or a master's degree in nursing diploma. If the diploma does not state nursing as area of study, then a transcript showing nursing as a major must be included along with a copy of the diploma.
4. Attach to your application copies of contact hour certificates to total thirty (30) nephrology related contact hours.
5. 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

1. Patients in a chronic dialysis unit should periodically be screened for
 - a. venereal disease.
 - b. hepatitis B virus.
 - c. aspergillus infection.
 - d. pneumocystic disease.
2. A 23-year-old man is to be the living donor for his 17-year-old sister's renal transplant. Which of these instructions should be included in his preoperative teaching?
 - a. "You will be required to get out of bed the evening of the surgery."
 - b. "You will be able to return to work within a week."
 - c. "You will have to modify your diet until your kidney function returns to normal."
 - d. "You will have pain that can easily be controlled with Tylenol."
3. In patients receiving peritoneal dialysis, which type of catheter-related infection is often slow to respond to antibiotic therapy?
 - a. acute exit site infection.
 - b. cuff infection.
 - c. peritonitis.
 - d. catheter contamination.
4. An 18-year-old female is diagnosed as having polycystic kidney disease. In view of this diagnosis, the patient should see a nephrologist and
 - a. talk with her spiritual advisor.
 - b. seek genetic counseling.
 - c. plan to have no children.
 - d. consult a transplant surgeon.
5. A 76-year-old woman who has been on maintenance hemodialysis for one year is receiving digoxin. Her last digoxin level was 3.6 ng/mL. A hemodialysis treatment with a 2 mEq/L potassium bicarbonate bath is initiated. Three hours into the dialysis treatment, she develops an irregular pulse. In assessing the patient's cardiac status, which of these actions should the nurse take first?
 - a. Measure the maximum heart rate.
 - b. Monitor the peripheral pulses.
 - c. Calculate the optimum heart rate.
 - d. Determine the apical/radial pulse.
6. In patients with chronic kidney disease, bleeding tendencies are due to
 - a. decreased vitamin K intake.
 - b. decreased cryoprecipitation.
 - c. abnormal platelet function.
 - d. abnormal renin level.

Answer Key: 1. b 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. d 6. c

Test Blueprint
Distribution of 200 Items in Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) 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 35%	13-14	10-11	8-9	6-8	8-9	3-4	4-5	11-12	2-3	69-71 (35%)
B Hemodialysis 30%	12-13	8-10	7-8	5-7	7-8	2-3	3-4	9-10	2-3	59-61 (30%)
C Peritoneal Dialysis 18%	7-8	5-6	4-5	3-4	4-5	1-2	2-3	5-6	1-2	35-37 (18%)
D Transplant 12%	4-5	3-4	2-3	2-3	2-3	1-2	1-2	3-4	0-1	23-25 (12%)
E Acute Therapies 5%	2-3	1-2	1-2	0-1	1-2	0-1	0-1	1-2	0-1	9-11 (5%)
Total	39-41 (20%)	29-31 (15%)	23-25 (12%)	19-21 (10%)	23-25 (12%)	9-11 (5%)	11-13 (6%)	31-33 (16%)	7-9 (4%)	200 (100%)

Revised 2006



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 two (2) out of the past three (3) years? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- and -
13. During your work experience, were at least 50% of your working hours spent in nephrology? ☐ Yes ☐ No
14. Highest level of education completed (choose one):
- ☐ Baccalaureate Degree – Nursing ☐ Master's Degree – Nursing
- ☐ Master's Degree – Other ☐ Doctorate
15. If you are successful on the examination, would you like us to notify your employer? ☐ Yes ☐ No
16. If YES, please mail notification to: _____

Employment History

Begin with your present employer. Only **nephrology-related** positions during the past three (3) 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 least two (2) years during the past three (3) 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 CNN status
- Cheating on the CNN 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 Nephrology 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

CNN Application Checklist

Did you remember to ✓

- ☐ Complete the CNN examination application in its entirety?
- ☐ Attach a clear copy of a baccalaureate degree in nursing or a master's degree in nursing diploma? If diploma does not state nursing as area of study, then a transcript showing nursing as a major must be included along with a copy of the diploma.
- ☐ Attach clear copies of contact hour certificates to total 30 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 Nephrology Nurse (CNN)

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 for recertification, you must be a Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) 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 with kidney disease 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 who received the CNN credential prior to 2000 and are 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 45 contact hours of nephrology nursing continuing education credit in the previous three (3) years.
 - Certificants who received the CNN credential prior to 2000 and are 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.

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 Recertification

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 the recertification records.

Inactive Status

A Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) 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 CNN 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)
East Holly Avenue Box 56 • Pitman, NJ 08071-0056
888.884.6622 • 856.589.7463 (fax)
nncc@ajj.com • www.nncc-exam.org