

Nephrology Nursing Certification

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) and the American Nurses Association (ANA) recognize nephrology nursing practice as a distinct nursing specialty. As such, ANNA believes that certification is an essential component to the internal management of specialty nursing practice.

ANNA will recognize and endorse certification credentials based on a certification exam that has periodic practice analysis surveys and external peer review processes, thereby ensuring the validity and integrity of the certification credential.

Currently, ANNA recognizes the certification programs from the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC). ANNA supports certification, but it is not the certifying agency. The Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) is the certifying agency for nephrology nurses. ANNA and NNCC are two separate and distinct organizations. NNCC has not been involved in the development of the sample test questions nor has given any other input with the production of the *Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Guide*. If you have specific questions regarding certification, please direct them to NNCC and not to ANNA.

The goal of NNCC is to improve the quality of care for patients with kidney disease by establishing credentialing mechanisms. 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 (Parker, 1991).

Certification is defined by the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) as “the formal recognition of specialized knowledge, skills, and experience demonstrated by achievement of standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote optimal health outcomes” (ABNS, 2012). Voluntary certification is obtained through individual specialty nursing certifying organizations and reflects an achievement of a standard beyond the legal authority from the state to practice professional nursing.

References

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- Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification. (2012). *American Board of Accreditation standards*. Aurora, OH: Author.
- Parker, J. (1998). Nephrology nursing as a specialty. In J. Parker (Ed.), *Contemporary nephrology nursing*. Pitman, NJ: American Nephrology Nurses Association.