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The Editor gratefully acknowledges the 2007-2008 American Nephrology Nurses’ Association (ANNA) Board of Directors (Sandra Bodin, MA, RN, CNN, President) for their support of this project and making this publication a reality.
The Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Guide (4th Edition) was written as a resource for nephrology nurses to utilize during their preparation for certification. This guide can be used for both the Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) and the Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN) exams based on the blueprint from the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC).

This guide should not be the only source used to prepare for the exam. The American Nephrology Nurses’ Association’s (ANNA’s) Contemporary Nephrology Nursing: Principles and Practice (Second Edition) textbook and the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing are additional references. Also, your local ANNA chapter may host a Certification Review course.

Passing the certification exam is based on a comprehensive understanding of nephrology and test-taking skills. We have focused on a case study method as an effective way of presenting the concepts of renal failure, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, pediatric nephrology, and transplant. Many individuals feel that reviewing case study questions is the most useful way to prepare for the certification exam; however, it is only one strategy.

Today, Americans are more aware of nursing certification than 10 years ago. In 1999, the American Nurses Association (ANA) found that just 1 in 3 people knew about nursing specialty certifications. In 2002, a study by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) discovered that 8 out of 10 people were aware that nurses could be certified in specialty areas. As a professional association, 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 structural and functional units. NNCC has not been involved in any way with the production of the Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Guide. If you have specific questions regarding certification, they should be directed to NNCC and not to ANNA.

Thank you to past and present contributors to this guide; without their expertise in the field of nephrology this guide would not have been possible. I extend a special thank you to the ANNA Board of Directors for their support of certification for the nephrology nurse. Thanks to the ANNA National Office staff, especially Gus Ostrum and Laura Douglas, who have spent many hours putting all the pieces together.

Norma J. Gomez, MBA, BSN, RN, CNN
Editor and Project Director

Preface

Norma J. Gomez, MBA, BSN, RN, CNN
Editor and Project Director
Foreword

This edition of the Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Guide is one of the most anticipated of all publications of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA). It has been 10 years since the previous edition was published, that publication has been out of print for several years. The Certification Review Guide is a popular and valuable resource for nurses as they prepare to sit for the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) examinations. Many certified nephrology nurses, including myself, used previous editions of the guide as a study tool to successfully take the exams. In fact, every week since the last edition was sold out, the ANNA National Office receives requests from nurses asking to purchase the guide. ANNA finally heeded the call for this valued reference and approved this publication.

The mission of ANNA is to advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for patients with kidney disease through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence. The publication of this guide reflects on all three of our core values: advocacy, scholarship and excellence. ANNA advocates for safe quality care for individuals with kidney disease, encourages scholarship by improving knowledge (research), imparting knowledge (teaching) and obtaining knowledge (learning) and promotes excellence in nursing practice. It is the position of ANNA that certification is an essential component of specialty nursing practice and that certification must be designed to protect the public from unsafe and incompetent caregivers.

We are remarkably fortunate to have Norma J. Gomez, MBA, BSN, RN, CNN as the Editor of the Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Guide. She is a dedicated member of ANNA and works tirelessly to provide opportunities for nephrology nurses to increase their knowledge and improve their practice. Norma has assembled a talented group of writers to serve as Section Editors for this publication; Lynda Ball, BS, BSN, RN, CNN; Deborah Brooks, MSN, RN, ANP, CNN, CNN-NP; and Paula Dutka, MSN, RN, CNN. Contributors are members of the ANNA Acute Care, Hemodialysis, Peritoneal Dialysis, Transplant, Pediatric Nephrology, Chronic Kidney Disease and Advanced Practice special interest groups.

I am certain that you will find this guide useful as you study for your certification exam. Each section of the guide includes practice questions that will improve your confidence and skill in identifying correct exam responses. The editors have even included a chapter on critical thinking related to test taking that will help you organize your strategies for a successful examination. The reference section serves as a source of additional material to compliment this guide; and in the Appendix, you will discover the ANNA Position Statement on Certification in Nephrology Nursing and the Scope of Practice for Nephrology Nursing.

I applaud your commitment to nephrology nursing and to providing quality care to individuals with kidney disease. I hope that you find the Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Guide helpful as you prepare to sit for an NNCC certification examination. This publication has been created for nurses like you!

Sandra Bodin, MA, RN, CNN
ANNA 2007-2008 President
Learning Objectives

1. Describe the purpose of nursing certification.
2. Identify the resources and preparation strategies for nephrology nursing certification.
3. Plan appropriate care for pediatric patients with chronic kidney disease.
4. Differentiate nursing care for acute and chronic patients.
5. Describe conditions associated with immunosuppressive therapy.
6. Determine the necessary nursing interventions based on the National Kidney Foundation/KDOQI Clinical Practice guidelines and CDC recommendations.
7. Apply Nephrology Nursing Standards of Practice and Guidelines for Care.