

ROADMAP TO NEPHROLOGY NURSING CERTIFICATION

Understand eligibility criteria.



Explore certification options.



Prepare your application.



Study and answer practice questions.



Prepare for exam day.



Take the exam!



Maintain your certification.



For more information visit NNCC-exam.org or call 888.884.6622.

FOR THE NURSE WANTING TO GET CERTIFIED:

1 Understand Eligibility Criteria & Requirements

Ensure you meet the requirements for certification through the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC):

- ✔ **Licensure:** Hold a full and unrestricted RN license in the United States or its territories.
- ✔ **Experience:** Complete a minimum of 3,000 hours in nephrology nursing within the past 3 years. For outpatient hemodialysis facilities, at least 750 hours (25%) must include experience in areas like:
 - ✔ Home hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
 - ✔ Inpatient kidney replacement therapy (acute or critical care).
 - ✔ CKD management, kidney transplant, or apheresis.
- ✔ **Education:** Hold a baccalaureate or master's degree in nursing.

2 Explore Certification Options

Choose the certification that aligns with your goals:

- ✔ Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN)
- ✔ Certified Nephrology Nurse–Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP)
- ✔ Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN)
- ✔ Other NNCC certifications (e.g., CCHT, CCHT-A, CD-LPN).

3 Prepare Your Application

Submit your forms and fees:

- ✔ Access the online application through the NNCC website.
- ✔ Gather necessary documents: nursing license, proof of hours, and continuing education certificates.
- ✔ Pay the required fees and review the NNCC policies for certification.

4 Study and Answer Practice Questions

Utilize resources to prepare for the exam:

- ✔ **Certification Review Course:** Complete ANNA's self-paced online Certification review course or attend local chapter review events.
- ✔ **Study Materials:**
 - ✔ Download the Certification Preparation Guide.
 - ✔ Review the test blueprint and specifications to identify high-weight content areas.
 - ✔ Familiarize yourself with the exam reference list.
- ✔ **Practice Exams:** Take the online practice exam provided by NNCC and focus on weaker areas.
- ✔ **Study Strategies:**
 - ✔ Join a study group.
 - ✔ Shadow a colleague in areas you need to strengthen.
 - ✔ Review nephrology nursing textbooks systematically.

5 Prepare for Exam Day

Be physically and emotionally ready:

- ✔ Get a good night's sleep and eat a balanced meal before the exam.
- ✔ Gather necessary materials: government-issued photo ID, nursing license, examination permit, sweater or jacket.
- ✔ Arrive early to the testing site.
- ✔ Use anxiety reducing-techniques like relaxation exercises or guided imagery.

6 Take the Exam

Tips for Success:

- ✔ Read questions carefully and focus on key terms like "first," "most likely," or "best."
- ✔ Answer based on the information provided without overthinking.
- ✔ Manage your time wisely, marking uncertain question for review later.
- ✔ Use as much of the allotted time as needed.

7 Maintain Your Certification

Plan for recertification:

- ✔ Track and complete continuing education hours.
- ✔ Stay updated on NNCC policies and requirements for maintaining your credential.



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