ANNA
American Nephrology Nurses Association

Position Statement

Autonomy of the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) acknowledges that a collaborative relationship exists between the specialty's professional organization, ANNA, and the credentialing body Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) and that this relationship is essential in serving the nephrology nursing community.

It is the position of ANNA that:

- NNCC's organizational autonomy and the NNCC's right to make all decisions regarding the testing and requirements for the credentials conferred upon nephrology nurses and technicians is supported by ANNA.
- In order to maintain the integrity of the certification and recertification processes, ANNA may not extend undue influence on the NNCC, the commissioners, or test development process.
- Collaboration implies dialogue and information sharing about the statistical basis for each credential. It is consistent with ANNA's mission, goals and strategic issue of advocacy to provide information to inform members and the larger nephrology community regarding certification in nephrology nursing. Also, as a distinct, autonomous organization, ANNA will use this information as part of its own decision-making process when determining ANNA's endorsement of credentials offered by the NNCC.

Background and Rationale:

ANNA recognizes that in the 1980s ANNA leaders strove to establish nephrology nursing practice as a distinct nursing specialty. They defined nephrology nursing practice by identifying six components as essential to our practice base: scope of practice, standards of practice, core curriculum, research, certification, and continuous quality improvement. As part of the realization of this practice model, ANNA leaders established an independent certification board, the Nephrology Nursing Certification Board (NNCB), now the NNCC, and implemented a certification program in nephrology nursing. The NNCC is a member of the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS). The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) has the following as one of its criteria: *Standard 3: The certifying organization is an entity with organizational autonomy governed in part or in whole by certified nursing members.* (ABSNC, 2026).

ANNA further recognizes that the development of certification examinations by NNCC is based on empirical practice analyses and decision making and cannot be subject to personal or political influences. In support of certification, ANNA publishes a certification review guide that is commonly used by nephrology nurses to prepare for certification (2021).

ANNA National Office
East Holly Avenue, Box 56 I Pitman, NJ 08071-0056
888-600-ANNA (2662) I 856-256-2320 I Fax: 856-589-7463 I anna@annanurse.org I www.annanurse.org

References

Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC). (2026). *Accreditation standards: Examination-based certification programs.* https://absnc.org/accreditation/accreditation-standards-examination-based-certification

Bednarski, D. (2021). *Nephrology nursing certification review guide* (6th ed.). American Nephrology Nurses Association.

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