

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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March 21, 2012

Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program Dean/Director:

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP) is sending this letter to let you know what plans are being made by us to facilitate the implementation of the new *Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education* (APRN Consensus Model). As you are no doubt aware, the proposed implementation date is 2015. To that end, AANPCP has begun the process to offer the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner certification in January of 2013. Candidates for this certification will have to have completed an accredited formal graduate level NP program that covers the population focus of Adult-Gerontology patients to include late adolescents through frail elderly. This can be either a degree offering program or a formal post-graduate level certificate program.

Nurse Practitioners currently certified as either Adult Nurse Practitioners or Gerontology Nurse Practitioners by AANPCP will continue to be able to maintain that certification by clinical practice and continuing education after 2015. However, the ability to re-certify by exam will not be available to those who do not qualify for re-certification by clinical practice and continuing education once the exams are retired.

We recognize the fact that many institutions previously offering either ANP or GNP programs have already adapted their programs to reflect the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care focus and many of the graduates have already been certified as ANP, GNP, or both. Those who have already taken both certifications will be allowed to be certified as A-GNP without having to re-test.

Individuals who have completed either ANP or GNP programs and who have not certified or maintained their certification will not be able to be newly certified in either of those two areas after those certification exams are retired. Our plan is to retire the GNP certification examination at the end of 2012 and the ANP certification examination will most likely be retired near the end of 2015 depending on the number of potential graduates still in pure ANP programs.

At this time there is no significant impact from a certification standpoint on the Family Nurse Practitioner Program graduates or currently certified FNPs. There are external processes underway to develop and implement new competencies addressing care for the elderly and frail elderly for the FNP role and these will be reflected in new versions of the FNP Certification Examinations. AANPCP conducts formal practice analyses on a five year schedule and we have just recently completed the practice analysis for both ANP and FNP in 2011.

We wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the certifying body for the graduates of your programs. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this, as well as any other areas related to national certification of primary care nurse practitioners.

Sincerely,



Mona M. Counts, Ph.D., FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN  
Chair, AANPCP



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Executive Director, AANPCP