Implementing the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education

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Objectives

• Discuss the implementation of the Consensus Model on certification
Certification Requirements

- Follow established certification testing and psychometrically sound and legally defensible standards
- Measure the core and role content on all certification examinations
- Psychometrically sound examinations
- Hold national accreditation
Certification Requirements

- Legally defensible process to determine eligibility to test
- Enforce congruence between education and certification
- Establish mechanisms for ongoing competence and certification maintenance
- Measure specialty competencies separately from APRN core, role and population
- Participate in mutually agreeable mechanism to ensure communication with boards of nursing and schools of nursing

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**APRN Consensus Model**

**APRN Specialties**
Focus of practice beyond role and population focus linked to health care needs. Examples include but are not limited to: Oncology, Older Adults, Orthopedics, Nephrology, Palliative Care.

**CONSENSUS MODEL FOR APRN REGULATORY MODEL:**
Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education (LACE)

**APRN Roles**

- Family/Individual Across Lifespan
- Adult-Gerontology
- Neonatal
- Pediatrics
- Women’s Health/Gender-Related
- Psychiatric-Mental Health

**Population Foci**

- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse-Midwife
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Nurse Practitioner

*The certified nurse practitioner (CNP) is prepared with the acute care CNP competencies and/or the primary care CNP competencies. At this point in time the acute care and primary care CNP delineation applies only to the pediatric and adult-gerontology CNP population foci. Scope of practice of the primary care or acute care CNP is not setting specific but is based on patient care needs. Programs may prepare individuals across both the primary care and acute care CNP competencies. If programs prepare graduates across both sets of roles, the graduate must be prepared with the consensus-based competencies for both roles and must successfully obtain certification in both the acute and the primary care CNP roles. CNP certification in the acute care or primary care roles must match the educational preparation for CNPs in those roles.*

Under this APRN Regulatory Model, there are four roles: certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse-midwife (CNM), clinical nurse specialist (CNS), and certified nurse practitioner (CNP). These four roles are given the title of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). APRNs are educated in one of the four roles and in at least one of six population foci: family/individual across the lifespan, adult-gerontology, neonatal, pediatrics, women’s health/gender-related, or psychiatric/mental health. Individuals will be licensed as independent practitioners for practice at the level of one of the four APRN roles within at least one of the six identified population foci. Education, certification, and licensure of an individual must be congruent in terms of role and population foci. APRNs may specialize but they cannot be licensed solely within a specialty area. Specialties can provide depth in one’s practice within the established population foci.

* The population focus, adult-gerontology, encompasses the young adult to the older adult, including the frail elderly. APRNs educated and certified in the adult-gerontology population are educated and certified across both areas of practice and will be titled Adult-Gerontology CNP or CNS. In addition, all APRNs in any of the four roles providing care to the adult population, e.g., family or gender specific, must be prepared to meet the growing needs of the older adult population. Therefore, the education program should include didactic and clinical education experiences necessary to prepare APRNs with these enhanced skills and knowledge.

** The population focus, psychiatric/mental health, encompasses education and practice across the lifespan.

**+** The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is educated and assessed through national certification processes across the continuum from wellness through acute care.
Changes to APRN Certifications

- Nurse Practitioner
  - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP (new)
  - Adult-Gerontology Primary NP (new)
- Certifications to include additional gerontology content
  - Family NP
  - PMHNP (across the lifespan)
  - WHNP
  - Nurse Anesthesia
  - Nurse-Midwifery
Changes APRN Certifications

- Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Adult-Gerontology CNS (new)
    - wellness through acute care
  - Pediatric CNS
    - wellness through acute care
  - Neonatal CNS
    - wellness through acute care
Overview: Adult-Gerontology NP Certifications

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
  - ANCC and AACN Certification Corporation
  - Available as of January 2013
  - Eligibility Requirements, Test Content Outline & Role Delineation Study
    - ANCC [http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification/NurseSpecialties/AdultGeroAcuteCareNP.html](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification/NurseSpecialties/AdultGeroAcuteCareNP.html)
    - AACN [http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/acnpc-ag-landing.pcms?menu=certification](http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/acnpc-ag-landing.pcms?menu=certification)

- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
  - ANCC and AANPCP
  - Available as of January 2013
  - Eligibility Requirements, Test Content Outline & Role Delineation Study
    - ANCC [http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification/NurseSpecialties/AdultGeroPrimaryCareNP.html](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification/NurseSpecialties/AdultGeroPrimaryCareNP.html)
    - AANPCP [http://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/certs/domains](http://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/certs/domains)
Overview: Adult-Gerontology CNS Certifications

- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Wellness through acute care
  - ANCC and AACN Certification Corporation

- ANCC
  - Test Development in process
  - Scheduled release April 2014
  - [http://www.nursecredentialing.org/certification.aspx](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/certification.aspx)

- AACN Certification Corporation
  - Scheduled release July 2013
  - [http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/accns-landing.pcms?menu=certification](http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/accns-landing.pcms?menu=certification)
Overview: CNS Certification

- Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Wellness through acute care
  - ANCC and AACN Certification Corporation

- ANCC
  - Test Development in process
  - Scheduled release April 2014
  - [http://www.nursecredentialing.org/certification.aspx](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/certification.aspx)

- AACN Certification Corporation
  - Scheduled release July 2013
  - [http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/accns-landing.pcms?menu=certification](http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/accns-landing.pcms?menu=certification)
Overview: CNS Certification

- Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Wellness though acute care
  - AACN Certification Corporation

- AACN Certification Corporation
  - Scheduled release 2014
  - [http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/accns-landing.pcms?menu=certification](http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/accns-landing.pcms?menu=certification)
Certification APRN Requirements

- Completed a nationally accredited graduate level program that corresponds to the certification sought
  - A minimum of 500 faculty-supervised clinical hours
  - Three separate comprehensive graduate-level courses (the APRN Core) in:
    - advanced physiology/pathophysiology, including general principles that apply across the lifespan;
    - advanced health assessment, which includes assessment of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, concepts and approaches;
    - advanced pharmacology, which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents.
  - Content in:
    - health promotion and/or maintenance;
    - differential diagnosis and disease management including the use and prescription of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions.
Graduates must complete a graduate program that corresponds to the certification

- Role and population
- Minimum 500 faculty supervised clinical hours
- 3 separate comprehensive graduate course
  - advanced pathophysiology
  - advanced health assessment
  - advanced pharmacology
Education and Certification

- Status of your program
- Students
  - Full time and part time
- Transcripts/Official Documents
  - Degree conferred
  - Role and population
  - Course titles reflect the content
Certification Transition Period

- Overlap of current certifications with new certifications
- Date applications accepted
  - Vary by certification and organization
- Testing occur after applications are accepted
  - Vary by certification and organization
Retiring Certifications

- **ANCC** (applications accepted through 12.31.2014)
  - Acute Care NP
  - Adult NP
  - Adult PMHNP
  - Gerontological NP
  - Adult CNS
  - Adult PMHCNS
  - Child/Adolescent PMHCNS
  - **Gerontological CNS** (application accepted 12/31/2013)

- **AANP CP**
  - Adult NP
  - Gerontological NP (retired on 12/2012)

- **AACN Certification**
  - Acute Care NP
## ANCC Chart: Adult-Gerontology Certifications*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Certification Name</th>
<th>Current Credential</th>
<th>New or Updated Certification Name</th>
<th>New or Updated Credential</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Date New Certification Launches</th>
<th>Last Date to Accept Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>ACNP-BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12/31/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult–Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>AGACNP-BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/31/2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult–Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>AGPCNP-BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/31/2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>ANP-BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12/31/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerontological Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>GNP-BC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12/31/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult–Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist</td>
<td>AGCNS-BC</td>
<td></td>
<td>The certification will include content from wellness through acute care</td>
<td>4/30/2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist</td>
<td>ACNS-BC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Certification examination is scheduled for retirement.</td>
<td>12/31/2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist</td>
<td>GCNS-BC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Certification examination is scheduled for retirement.</td>
<td>12/31/2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See the full chart - http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Documents/Certification/APRN-Materials/APRN-CertificationNameChart.pdf*
Resources

- ANCC

- AACN Certification Corporation
  - http://www.aacn.org/wd/certifications/content/accns-landing.pcms?menu=certification

- AANPCP
  - http://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/index