



Living the CCNE Values: 20th Anniversary Editorial Series

Rely on review and oversight by peers from the community of interest.

October 12, 2018 - Clearly mirrored within CCNE's operational and governance structures is the CCNE value: "(The Commission will) rely on *review and oversight* by peers from the community of interest." Here, the term "peer" includes the diverse community of nurses who implement nursing knowledge, those who employ nurses, and representatives of the public who ultimately receive nursing knowledge and skills. The CCNE Board of Commissioners and its committees and task forces include elected and appointed representatives of these peers.

The perspectives and experiences of peers enrich the work of CCNE. For example, let me focus on peers from the practice community of nurses and employers of nurses. These peers implement change to serve and protect the public. They are affected by many forces: dramatic change in financing of services (from volume of services to value of services), accusations of anti-competitiveness, privatization, automation, acquisitions and mergers, federal and state efforts to de-regulate, competence models of institutional training, health reform measures that stem from the public's disappointment with healthcare, and not the least, the internet of things.

Accreditation of healthcare service institutions, health professions education programs, and residency programs began as a nongovernmental voluntary peer review process to measure how institutions met threshold tests of academic quality and whether they had rigorous performance improvement processes. Accreditation in the present era has morphed into the role of gatekeeper for federal money and serves to assure policy makers and payers that institutions and programs within them are accountable. Accreditation also is now charged by the public to affirm that educational programs provide short-term and long-term value to students. The more recent expansion of the role of accreditation requires the skill and experience of all committed peers to attain and maintain the public's trust and confidence in accreditation.

A series of scandals in law and in medicine within the United Kingdom in the mid-1990s ended the collegial models of self-regulation that were more than 100 years old. The end of self-regulation in law and medicine in the United



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About the editorial series:

Upon its founding, the CCNE Steering Committee developed a set of 12 values to guide CCNE's work. These values are central to the organization's identity, and CCNE accreditation activities are premised on these statements of principle.

Throughout CCNE's 20th anniversary year, each edition of this editorial series will explore a different CCNE value. This series can be accessed on the [CCNE website](#).

Kingdom, as well as the present vigorous de-regulatory environment from federal and state governments in the United States, reminds us that the public has abiding interest and the ultimate power in determining to what extent a given profession can self-regulate. A diverse group of peers serves to mitigate tensions between those who value self-regulation for the public's interest and those who believe that self-regulation serves only educators' self-interest.

By including practicing nurses, employers of nurses, and public consumers on its Board, CCNE ensures that its peer review process is responsive to the real-world needs of today's healthcare environment and is not focused on protection of the educational and residency programs. That the governance of CCNE includes peers dilutes any appearance of self-interest in CCNE's accreditation processes. Representation by peers such as practicing nurses and employers of nurses also helps CCNE identify members of diverse public groups not immediately known to educators, so that public information about CCNE accreditation can be crafted and disseminated to those audiences. The outcome is the widest possible public recognition of CCNE accreditation as a credible process that sustains the public's interest and enhances CCNE's ongoing commitment to superb quality.