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Delaware State Board of Nursing – Advanced Practice Nursing Committee

APN Committee Newsletter - April 2013

The Impact the Consensus Model will have on the practicing Advanced Practice Nurse

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As Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) have grown in numbers and expanded their capabilities over the past several decades, they have become a highly valued, integral part of the health care system. Because of the importance of APRNs in caring for the current and future health needs of patients, APRN education, accreditation, certification and licensure must be effectively aligned in order to continue to ensure patient safety while expanding patient access to care. Currently, 20 States have independent practice authority and 15 others are moving forward with introduction of legislation over the next few months. Adoption of the Consensus Model is a key component of this and an exciting opportunity for APRNs in Delaware.

As the advanced practice nursing community prepares for the implementation of the Consensus Model in the near future, each advanced practice nurse should review how this model will affect their certification and licensure. To summarize briefly, more than 45 Advanced Practice Nursing organizations developed the Consensus Model which will increase patient safety by establishing nationwide standards that require all APRNs to meet the same educational and professional standards. The basic requirements include four main areas: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education (LACE). Educational institutions and certification agencies are required to



obtain and maintain accreditation, while the practicing APRN is responsible for maintaining current licensure and certification. Only individuals who graduate from an accredited nursing education program will be eligible to sit for their certification exam. Although APRNs who are practicing prior to the implementation of the Consensus Model will be exempted from the new eligibility requirements by a "grandfathering" clause, each APRN must be attentive to changes in certification related to their specialties.



In standardizing the profession across the nation, the Consensus Model has defined four advanced practice roles: Certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), Certified nurse-midwife (CNM), Clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and Certified nurse practitioner (CNP). Linked to these roles are the following six populations: Family/Individual across the life-span, Adult-Gerontology, Pediatrics, Neonatal, Women's Health/Gender Related, and Psych/Mental Health. Certification exams will apply to these roles and populations.

The new standard will result in the retirement of certification exams which do not closely reflect the roles and populations identified in the model. Currently certified APRNs may continue to maintain their credentials on retired certifications through timely renewals, using professional development activities and clinical practice hours, without completing any new initial certification requirements. Maintaining this certification is significant to the practicing APRN. Failing to renew a retired certification may result in loss of the certification. If your certification lapses and

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you meet the reactivation requirements, you may reactivate your certification using professional development activities and clinical practice hours for a grace period after your expiration date. The option to reactivate certification with testing will not be available for retired certification exams. If your certification lapses and you cannot meet the reactivation requirements within the determined grace period, you may not be able to renew your existing certification or your license to practice. This means that you may not meet state licensing, institutional credentialing, or third-party reimbursement requirements. Keeping your certification current through renewal will allow the most flexibility as this process unfolds.

Refer to your certifying agency for additional information regarding scheduled retirement of certification exams.

Link to ANCC certification exams scheduled for retirement:

<http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Documents/Certification/APRN-Materials/APRN-CertificationNameChart.pdf>

Links to additional Certifying Agencies:

Pediatric Nursing Certification Board www.pncb.org

American Midwifery Certification Board
www.amcbmidwife.org

National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists www.nbcrna.com

National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing Specialties (NCC) <http://nccnet.org/>

Links to additional Nursing Organizations:

American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
<http://www.aanp.org/>

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)
info@aacn.org

American Nurses Association (ANA)
www.nursingworld.org

American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNP)
www.apna.org

The APN committee welcomes your comments and feedback regarding the APRN consensus model. To reach the committee, contact the Delaware Board of Nursing at:

Phone: (302) 744-4500

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**APN Committee Meetings
Join the Dialog!**

Dates locations and times for APN Committee meetings are posted on the following website:
<http://egov.delaware.gov/pmc/#agency45>

References:

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (2012), Campaign for the APRN Consensus Model and Toolkit. <https://www.ncsbn.org/aprn.htm>

American Nurses Association (2012), APRN Consensus Model Toolkit.
<http://www.nursingworld.org/consensusmodel>