



Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission

Member of the American Board of Nursing Specialties

The Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) supports the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report on the Future of Nursing. It is reflected in many of our initiatives toward specialty certification in nephrology nursing.

IOM Recommendation 1: Remove scope-of-practice barriers.

Advanced practice registered nurses should be able to practice to the full extent of their education and training.

NNCC has:

- Developed and implemented a certification exam for advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) in nephrology.
- Created an advanced practice certification board that oversees the exam. This board reports to the NNCC.
- Utilized APRNs at all levels of the NNCC. APRN's are commissioners, test item writers, and members of the Advanced Practice Nursing Board.

IOM Recommendation 2: Expand opportunities for nurses to lead and diffuse collaborative improvement efforts.

NNCC:

- Participates in collaborative groups with other nephrology organizations such as Kidney Care Partners and Kidney Health Initiative.
- Provides scholarships for nursing and allied nursing professionals.
- Maintains a presence by attending and exhibiting at other nephrology conferences such as American Nephrology Nurses Association, American Society of Nephrology, the National Kidney Foundation, the Annual Dialysis Conference, and the Renal Physicians Association.
- Supports research and provides guidance to organizations that provide continuing educational opportunities for nurses and allied nursing professionals.
- Performs role delineation/practice surveys and analyzes results to keep exams aligned with professional educational level and role.
- Participates in interdisciplinary collaboration between nurses and technicians.

IOM Recommendation 3: Implement nurse residency programs.

NNCC has:

- Endorsed educational programs, especially review courses offered by the American Nephrology Nurses Association.

IOM Recommendation 4: Increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020.

NNCC has:

- Annually offered scholarships to assist nurses who seek baccalaureate degrees.
- One nursing certification exam, Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN), which requires a baccalaureate degree to take the exam.

IOM Recommendation 5: Double the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020.

NNCC has:

- Provided ongoing support of nursing research.
- Financially supported a research grant for \$5,000 administered through American Nephrology Nurses Association.

IOM Recommendation 6: Ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning.

NNCC has:

- Made continuing education a requirement of initial certification and for recertification.
- Annual application audits to ensure appropriate continuing education

IOM Recommendation 7: Prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health.

NNCC has:

- Mentored new test writing committee members, various board members and new commissioners.
- Participated in collaborative groups with a shared interest in kidney disease.

IOM Recommendation 8: Build an infrastructure for the collection and analysis of interprofessional health care work force data.

NNCC has:

- Administered and analyzed a nurse practice survey for nephrology nurses every five years. The information is used to determine exam content.
- Performed analysis and reviews on all exams for appropriate testing level and accuracy.
- Performed quarterly audits on certification and recertification applications, and continuing education accuracy.

Approved by the NNCC Commission 10/2013