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## ***Certified Nephrology Nurse-Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) Examination***

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**Mission**

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The Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) exists to establish credentialing mechanisms to promote patient safety and improve the quality of care provided to patients with kidney disease.

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**Philosophy**

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The Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission supports the philosophy that there should be a diversity of examinations that will effectively provide the opportunity for certification at various levels of education, experience, and areas of practice within nephrology nursing.

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**Purpose**

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To improve and maintain the quality of professional nephrology nursing care through the development, administration, and supervision of a certification program in nephrology nursing. To engage in any and all necessary and lawful activities to implement the foregoing purpose and to exercise all powers and authority now or hereafter conferred upon not-for-profit corporations under the laws of the state of New Jersey.

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**About NNCC**

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Formerly known as the Nephrology Nursing Certification Board (NNCB), the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) was established in 1987 for the purpose of promoting the highest standards of nephrology nursing practice through the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of all aspects of the certification and recertification processes. The NNCC is national in scope, is separately incorporated, and is an independent organization that collaborates with the Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET) in test development, test administration, and test evaluation. The Commission is comprised of registered nurses with content expertise in nephrology nursing.

The development of certification examinations for the specialty of nephrology nursing is based on the Dreyfus Model of Skill Acquisition as adapted by Patricia Benner, RN, PhD to clinical nursing practice. The model is founded on descriptive research that identifies five levels of clinical nursing practice, also referred to as levels of professional development. These levels – novice, advanced beginner, competent, proficient, and expert – were described in the words of nurses who were interviewed and observed either individually or in small groups. The levels of professional development address the scope of nursing practice not the quality of a nurse's performance. The NNCC bases the development of its examinations on practice analyses that define the scope and description of professional nursing practice in nephrology.

The Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) examination was created to test the broad scope of nephrology nursing practice at a proficient level. The Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN) examination was created to test entry-level nephrology nurses practicing at a competent level in the dialysis setting. The Certified Nephrology Nurse - Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) examination was created to test nurse practitioners practicing in all nephrology settings at a competent level. These examinations are endorsed by the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA). In addition, the NNCC continues to regularly collect data through national

practice surveys regarding the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nurses practicing in nephrology settings.

In 1997, a joint task force was created by ANNA and the National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists (NANT) to improve the education, training, and competency assessment of unlicensed personnel working in dialysis facilities. The task force developed a standardized program for education and training of hemodialysis technicians. Following this, a special committee was created to develop an entry-level competency test. The NNCC, as an examination board, was asked to administer the test and certify hemodialysis technicians for initial competencies in knowledge, skills, and abilities. The test, known as the Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) examination, is endorsed by ANNA and NANT, and is regularly updated using national data from job surveys.

An expanded job analysis/role delineation survey conducted in 2010/2011 for non-RN staff provided data on the roles and scopes of practice for experienced technicians and licensed practical nurses/licensed vocational nurses working within the nephrology nursing workforce. Based on the results of that survey, two additional examinations were developed – the Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician – Advanced (CCHT-A) exam, and the Certified Dialysis – Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse (CD-LPN/LVN) exam. Both exams were offered beginning October 2012.

The Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET) was chosen by the NNCC to provide testing and evaluation services to meet nephrology nursing's assessment needs. The NNCC and C-NET conduct practice analyses of nephrology nursing practice and job analyses of hemodialysis technicians. Collaboratively, NNCC and C-NET develop and administer examinations to nephrology caregivers.

The NNCC believes that the attainment of a common knowledge base, utilization of the nursing process, and a predetermined level of skill in the practice setting are required for practice in nephrology nursing. Certification exists primarily to benefit the public, and the NNCC believes that all caregivers providing care to patients with kidney disease should demonstrate a minimum level of knowledge, skills, and abilities. Certification also provides professional recognition for these achievements. The Commission recognizes the value of education, administration, research, and clinical practice in fostering personal and professional growth and provides examinations to validate this performance.

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**ABNS and ABSNC Accreditation**

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The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS), established in 1991, is a not-for-profit, membership organization focused on consumer protection and improving patient outcomes by promoting specialty nursing certification. The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), formerly the ABNS Accreditation Council, is the only accrediting body specifically for nursing certification. ABSNC accreditation is a peer-review mechanism that allows nursing certification organizations to obtain accreditation by demonstrating compliance with the highest quality standards in the industry.

The NNCC is a charter member of the ABNS and the Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) certification program was one of the first national certification programs to be recognized and accredited.

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**Deadlines, Cancellations, and Rescheduling**

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**Submissions for Computer-Based Testing (CBT)****Deadlines**

There is no submission deadline for the CBT format.

**Refunds**

Applicants requesting a refund must first cancel any scheduled exam date previously booked with the computer-based testing agency. Written refund requests must be submitted by the payee and received by NNCC no later than two (2) weeks prior to the close of the 90-day testing window printed on the permit. Refund requests received after this time will not be considered. A refund request must include the applicant's full name, the last four digits of the social security number and the name of the exam being cancelled or the request will not be considered. Refunds are issued minus an application processing fee and any other non-refundable fees.

**Reschedule Requests**

To reschedule a CBT exam, the applicant must contact the computer-based testing agency by calling the number provided on the CBT examination permit no less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled exam. Reschedule requests or cancellations made less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled exam will not be accepted, and the applicant must either test as scheduled or be considered a 'no-show.' No-show applicants may still qualify for a 90-day extension, but the applicant must contact C-NET in writing before the close of their 90-day testing window. A 90-day extension Fee will apply.

**Special 90 Day Permit Extension**

For more information regarding 90-Day extension, see the section of this brochure titled, "Examination Permit"

**Submissions for Paper/Pencil Testing (P&P)****Deadlines**

The completed application and appropriate fee must be post-marked no later than the postmark deadline date specified on the examination schedule, which can be found on the NNCC website at [www.nncc-exam.org](http://www.nncc-exam.org). Applications will be accepted for an additional two weeks beyond the postmark deadline date with the addition of a late fee. **No exceptions will be made to this policy.**

**Refunds**

Written refund requests will be accepted by NNCC no later than two (2) weeks prior to the examination date and must be submitted by the payee. Refund requests received after this time will not be considered. The request must include the applicant's full name, the last four digits of the social security number, and the name of the exam being cancelled or the request will not be considered. Refunds are issued minus an application processing fee and any other non-refundable fees.

**Reschedule Requests**

Applicants applying for the paper-and-pencil format (P&P) will be allowed one reschedule into the CBT format. Written reschedule requests must be received by C-NET no later than two (2) weeks prior to the examination date and must be submitted by the applicant. Reschedule requests received after this time will not be accepted, and the applicant must either test as scheduled or be

considered a 'no-show.' No-show applicants may still qualify for a special permit extension, but the applicant must contact C-NET in writing by the scheduled exam date (or following business day). A special permit extension fee will apply.

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**Change of Name and Address**

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The applicant will not be able to request a name change after the examination permits have been issued. The name that the applicant used on the certification examination application form is the name that is submitted to the Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET) for test administration.

When the applicant appears at the test site, the name on the examination permit must match the other forms of identification. The applicant will not be allowed to sit for the examination without proper identification.

If an applicant changes his or her name and/or address, the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) should be notified in writing, by fax, or by email.

**Please Note:** NNCC and C-NET must determine that the applicant name and the name provided in any and all supporting documentation (i.e. high school diploma, transcript etc.) does, refer to one and the same person. If this is not evident, you must include proof of a legal name change when submitting an application.

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**Disability Accommodations**

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NNCC and C-NET will make special testing arrangements to accommodate applicants with the following special needs:

- Documented disabilities that interfere with test taking (e.g., reading or learning disorders)
- Documented religious convictions that preclude Saturday testing

If you wish to make such arrangements you must notify C-NET in writing. Attach the request to the front of your application. C-NET will review your request and contact you regarding the special accommodation process. Please allow up to ten weeks to accommodate your request.

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**Examination Permit**

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**Computer-Based Test (CBT)**

Upon approval of an examination application, the applicant will receive an examination permit by mail.

The permit will include a toll-free number that the applicant must call to schedule the exam at the computer-based testing location of choice. The computer-based testing agency will send a follow-up email to the applicant confirming the exam site, date, and time that the applicant has chosen.

If the applicant does not receive an examination permit within 4 - 6 weeks of submission, notify C-NET by calling 800.463.0786.

- Applicants will not be admitted to the examination without an examination permit.
- Substitution of an applicant cannot be made and no such request will be honored.

The examination permit will remain active for a period of 90 days (from the date of issue). The applicant must test within the 90-day window printed on the permit. If the applicant does not test by the end of the 90-day window, both the examination permit and exam application will expire. The applicant must then

submit a new application and fee for the exam before being allowed to test.

### Special Permit Extension

C-NET will grant a 90-day extension to untested applicants who require a new 90-day window. Only one 90-day extension will be granted per qualifying applicant and the permit extension will only allow for testing in the CBT format. Applicants requesting a 90-day extension must contact C-NET in writing before the close of the 90-day testing window. A 90-day extension fee will apply.

### Paper/Pencil Exam

Upon approval of an examination application, the applicant will receive an examination permit from C-NET. The permit will include the examination date, examination site address, and the time the applicant is to report to the examination site.

If an examination permit is not received within seven (7) days prior to the examination date, notify C-NET by calling 800.463.0786. If an examination permit is lost, C-NET should be notified immediately.

- Applicants will not be admitted to the examination without an examination permit.
- Substitution of applicants cannot be made and no such requests will be honored.

C-NET  
35 Journal Square, Suite 901  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

### Preparation for the Examination

Please see NNCC website ([www.nncc-exam.org](http://www.nncc-exam.org)) for the current reference list found under CNN-NP: Prepare for the Exam.

**The NNCC does not offer contact hours, or review courses.** A variety of publications, and continuing education activities designed to prepare individuals are available through the ANNA at [www.annanurse.org](http://www.annanurse.org) or 888-600-2662.

### Examination Objectives

1. Assess and diagnose pathologic processes and complications that occur in kidney disease. (38-40%)
2. Prescribe interventions, including evidence-based treatments, therapies, and procedures consistent with comprehensive care needs. (43-45%). Pharmacology (21-23%) Other (21-23%)
3. Evaluate, select, and/or design strategies/resources to educate client, family, other health professionals, and the public. (8-10%)
4. Facilitate an interdisciplinary process with other members of the health care team. (3-5%)
5. Ensure the development of a holistic plan of care that reflects an individual's values and beliefs. (3-5%)

### Materials to Bring to the Examination

Applicants arriving at the examination site must present the following to the proctor when checking in:

- The original C-NET examination permit
  - Copies of the examination permit will not be accepted.
- A photo and signature bearing government issued identification card, (e.g., applicant's drivers license)
  - Applicants who appear without photo identification will not be permitted to sit for the examination.

The name appearing on the applicant's photo identification card must be the same as the name appearing on the examination permit.

Reference books, notes, or other study materials may not be brought into the examination room. Examination questions do not include calculations that require a calculator. Personal belongings must be placed away from the examinee's immediate test area. All cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices must be turned off and put away.

### Taking The Examination

The certification examinations are multiple-choice tests. It is important to read each question carefully and choose the one answer that you think answers the question correctly. There is no penalty for guessing, so an educated guess is appropriate if you are unsure of the answer. Four (4) hours are allotted to complete the examination.

### Inappropriate Behavior During The Examination

The performance of all examinees will be monitored. Any examinee who gives or receives assistance, or otherwise engages in dishonest or improper behavior during the examination, may be required to cease taking the examination and leave the examination site. The examination manager will notify the C-NET office of any inappropriate behavior. The C-NET personnel will then notify the NNCC Executive Director.

After reviewing a reported incident, the NNCC will determine whether there is reason to allow the individual to retake the examination, refuse to release test results, or revoke the individual's eligibility to sit for future examinations.

Any individual who removes or attempts to remove materials from the examination site, or who discloses, reproduces, distributes, or otherwise misuses a test question from a certification examination, may face legal action.

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**Examination Results And Notification**

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**Computer-Based Exam**

Applicants taking a computer-based test will receive a score immediately upon completion.

**Paper/Pencil Exam**

Applicants taking a paper/pencil exam will be notified of their scores approximately 4 – 6 weeks after test administration. C-NET will mail all examination scores to the examinee.

For both computer-based and paper/pencil test administration:

- A total score will be provided for examinees who successfully pass the examination.
- Approximately 70% of the test items must be answered correctly to receive a passing score.
- A total score and sub scores in all the major test areas of concentration will be provided for examinees who do not pass the examination.

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**Confidentiality**

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To insure the security of the examination, the test materials are confidential and will not be released to any person or agency. An applicant's individual test results will be released only upon the applicant's written request. The NNCC reserves the right to post a successful applicant's name and certification expiration date on the NNCC website. Names are posted by state of residence.

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**Recognition of Certification**

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Certification is awarded to those who successfully complete the certification process by meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a written multiple-choice examination. The designated credential is Certified Nephrology Nurse-Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) and is valid for five (5) years from the last day of the month in which the certificant passed the examination. The credential may be used in all professional activities and correspondence.

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**Wall Certificate And Wallet Card**

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The NNCC will mail out to all successful examinees a packet containing a wall certificate suitable for framing and a wallet card displaying an expiration date. Only one wall certificate will be issued; however, a new wallet card will be provided after each successful recertification.

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**Denial/Revocation of Certification**

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The occurrence of any of the following actions will result in the denial, suspension, or revocation of the certification:

- Falsification of the NNCC application
- Falsification of any materials or information requested by the NNCC
- Any restrictions such as revocation, suspension, probation, or other sanctions of professional RN license by nursing authority
- Misrepresentation of certification status
- Cheating on the examination
- Applicable state and/or federal sanctions

The NNCC reserves the right to investigate all suspected/reported violations and, if appropriate, notify the individual's employer/State Board of Nursing.

The applicant will be notified in writing of NNCC's decision(s)/action(s).

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**Appeal Process**

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An applicant who has been denied certification, failed an examination, or had certification revoked has the right of appeal. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the President of the NNCC within thirty (30) days of notification. The appeal shall state specific reasons why the applicant feels entitled to certification. At the applicant's request, the President shall appoint a committee of three (3) NNCC members who will meet with the applicant and make recommendations to the NNCC. The committee will meet in conjunction with a regularly scheduled NNCC meeting. The applicant will be responsible for his/her own expenses. The final decision of the NNCC will be communicated in writing to the applicant within thirty (30) days following the NNCC meeting. Failure of the applicant to request an appeal or appear before the committee shall constitute a waiver of the applicant's right of appeal.

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**Reapplication Procedure**

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If an applicant does not pass the examination, he/she has one opportunity within one year to retake the examination at a reduced rate. C-NET will mail a re-examination application to those applicants who do not pass or information on re-examination is included with your exam results for CBT test takers.



**Certification  
Examination  
Application**



**Nephrology Nursing  
Certification Commission**





***CNN-NP Eligibility Criteria***

1. The applicant must hold a current, full, and unrestricted license as a registered nurse in the United States or its territories and be nationally certified as a nurse practitioner.
2. The applicant must have a minimum of 2000 hours as a nurse practitioner practicing in nephrology within the two (2) years prior to submitting the exam application.
3. The applicant must possess a minimum of a master's degree in nursing.
4. The applicant must have completed sixty (60) contact hours of **approved** continuing education in nephrology within the two (2) years prior to submitting the exam application.

Continuing education must be approved by one of the following:

- Organizations accredited by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center – Commission on Accreditation (ANCC-COA) the credentialing body of the American Nurses Association
  - For example, The American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA), which is both an accredited provider and approver of continuing education in nursing
- The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN)
- The Council of Continuing Education
- The American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- California, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, or Ohio State Boards of Nursing\*
- Organizations accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
  - For example, the American Society of Nephrology and the Office of Continuing Education, School of Medicine, University of Missouri-Columbia that sponsors the Annual Dialysis Conference

**\* Please be aware that although programs meet requirements set forth by other state boards of nursing, they may not meet the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission criteria.**

**No individual shall be excluded from the opportunity to participate in the NNCC certification program on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability.**

***CNN-NP Examination Application Instructions***

1. Complete all sections of the application. Be sure to include the last four (4) digits of your social security number, since it will serve as your identification number.
2. Make certain your immediate supervisor, employer or collaborating physician completes the section on employment verification.
3. Attach to your application a copy of a master's degree in nursing diploma. If the diploma does not state nursing as area of study, then a transcript showing nursing as a major must be included along with a copy of the diploma.
4. Attach to your application copies of contact hour certificates to total sixty (60) nephrology related contact hours.
5. Attach to your application a photocopy of your current RN license, and a copy of your national certification. (If you are unable to obtain a photocopy of your license, submit a letter or printout from your state board of nursing verifying your licensure with license number and date of expiration).

**Note: If the name on any of the above documents does not match your current name, proof of name change must be submitted.**

**Examination permits will be issued only to those applicants with completed applications.**

**Sample Test Questions**

1. According to the American Diabetes Association's 2006 Standards of Medical Care, which of these glycosylated hemoglobin levels is within the target goal for patients with diabetes and chronic kidney disease?
  - a. < 6.8%
  - b. < 7.2%
  - c. < 7.6%
  - d. < 8%
  
2. On renal biopsy, the **most** common lesion found in HIV-associated nephropathy is:
  - a. nodular glomerulosclerosis
  - b. interstitial nephropathy
  - c. IgA nephropathy
  - d. Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis
  
3. A patient with CKD Stage 3 is brought to the emergency department with complaints of severe nausea and vomiting. The patient's creatinine has increased from 2.0 mg/dL to 4.5 mg/dL. Which of these actions should the NP take **next**?
  - a. Prescribed a proton-pump inhibitor.
  - b. Check the protein-to-creatinine ratio
  - c. Begin intravenous hydration.
  - d. Initiate broad-spectrum antibiotics.
  
4. The Cockcroft-Gault formula for calculating creatinine clearance adjusts for:
  - a. race
  - b. gender
  - c. number of comorbid conditions
  - d. residual renal function
  
5. The results of a patient's estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) place him in CKD Stage 4, which indicates that his eGFR is within the range of which of these ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>?
  - a. 0 – 14
  - b. 15 – 29
  - c. 30 – 59
  - d. 60 – 89
  
6. In a patient who has heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT), the major cause of morbidity is:
  - a. thrombosis
  - b. hemorrhage
  - c. immune complex disposition
  - d. drug-induced hepatitis
  
7. A patient with CKD Stage 5 has the following laboratory findings:
  1. Phosphorus: 5mg/dL
  2. Calcium: 9.2mg/dL
  3. Intact parathyroid hormone (iPTH): 410pg/mL
  4. Hemoglobin: 11g/dL
 Which of the following should the NP prescribe?
  - a. Iron
  - b. Calcium
  - c. Vitamin D
  - d. Erythropoietin-stimulating agent
  
8. Metabolic acidosis typically occurs when the eGFR is how many ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>?
  - a. 25
  - b. 35
  - c. 45
  - d. 55

Answer Key: 1. a 2. d 3. c 4. b 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a

**Ideal Distribution of Questions in CNN-NP Certification Examination**

<b>Client Problem</b> / <b>Content</b>	<b>1</b> Assess & diagnose pathologic processes & complications 38-40%	<b>2</b> Prescribe interventions (Pharm 21-23%, Other 21-23%) 43-45%	<b>3</b> Resources to educate patient, family, etc. 8-10%	<b>4</b> Facilitate an inter-disciplinary approach 3-5%	<b>5</b> Develop holistic plan of care. 3-5%	<b>Total Items</b>
<b>A</b> Acute Renal Failure 4-6%	2-4	3-5	1-3	0-1	0-1	8-10
<b>B</b> Stages 1 & 2 CKD 4-6%	2-4	3-5	1-3	0-1	0-1	8-10
<b>C</b> Stage 3 CKD 11-13%	7-9	8-10	1-3	0-2	0-2	20-22
<b>D</b> Stages 4 & 5 CKD 19-21%	13-15	14-16	2-4	0-2	0-2	34-36
<b>E</b> Renal Replacement Therapies 56-59%	39-41	44-46	8-10	3-5	3-5	100-102  (Hemo-82-84, PD-5-7 Trans-8-10 CCRT-0-2)
<b>Total Items</b>	67-69	76-78	15-17	6-8	6-8	175

Revised May 2013/Effective/July 2014





## Employment History

Begin with your present employer. Only **nephrology-related** positions during the past two (2) years need to be documented. Please do not send resumes. (Use a blank sheet of paper if additional space is needed).

From Month/Year	To Month/Year	Employer name and Address	Position/Title	Supervisor	Hours Per Week

**YOUR SUPERVISOR MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY:**

As indicated above the applicant has worked as a nurse practitioner in nephrology at for least 2,000 hours during the past two (2) years by \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Collaborating MD

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ Employer/ Collaborating MD Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Facility/Institution

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail

The occurrence of any of the following actions will result in the denial, suspension, or revocation of the Certification:

- Falsification of the NNCC application
- Falsification of any material information requested by the NNCC
- Any restrictions such as revocation, suspension, probation, or other sanctions of professional RN license by nursing authority
- Misrepresentation of CNN-NP status
- Cheating on the CNN-NP examination
- Applicable state and/or federal sanctions

**APPLICANT — PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BELOW:**

I hereby attest that I have read and understand the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) policy on denial, suspension, or revocation of certification and that its terms shall be binding on all applicants for certification and all Certified Nephrology Nurse-Nurse Practitioners for the duration of their certification. I hereby attest that I have read and agree to the Deadlines, Cancellations, and Rescheduling policy found on page 4 of this application booklet. I also hereby attest that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies stated on the NNCC website and in the most current Certification Application Booklet.

I hereby apply for certification offered by the NNCC. I understand that certification depends upon successful completion of the specified requirements. I further understand that the information obtained in the certification process may be used for statistical purposes and for evaluation of the certification program. I further understand that the information from my certification records shall be held in confidence and shall not be used for any other purpose without my permission; however, after passing the examination, the NNCC reserves the right to publish my name and certification expiration date by state on the NNCC website. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true, complete, correct, and is made in good faith. I understand that the NNCC reserves the right to verify any or all information on this application.

\_\_\_\_\_ Legal Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

## CNN-NP Application Checklist

### Did you remember to ✓

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- Complete the CNN-NP examination application in its entirety?
- Attach a clear copy of a masters degree in nursing diploma? If diploma does not state nursing as area of study, then a transcript showing nursing as a major must be included along with a copy of the diploma.
- Attach clear copies of contact hour certificates to total 60 contact hours specific to nephrology?
- Attach a copy of your current RN license, with the expiration date clearly visible or a letter or printout from your state board of nursing verifying licensure with license number and date of expiration?
- Attach a copy of your NP license, copy of NP certification and/or letter of recognition?
- Include a check or money order or complete the credit card authorization form for the appropriate fee?
- Have employer/collaborating MD complete their portion of the application?
- Sign and date the application?
- Keep a copy of the application and supporting documents for your records?
- Include documentation for your current NOVA or NFK membership if applicable.

**Note: Examination permits are issued only to applicants with completed, approved applications**

### Contact hour certificates MUST include the following information to be accepted:

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- Name of attendee
- Date of program
- Name of program
- Number of contact hours awarded
- Accreditation statement

### Programs MUST be accredited by one of the following:

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- Organizations, accredited by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center – Commission on Accreditation (ANCC-COA), the credentialing body of the American Nurses' Association  
*For example: The American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) which is both an accredited provider and approver of continuing education in nursing*
- Organizations accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)  
*For example: The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and the Office of Continuing Education, School of Medicine, University of Missouri-Columbia that sponsors the Annual Dialysis Conference*
- The American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN)
- The Council of Continuing Education
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- California, Florida, Iowa, Kansas or Ohio State Boards of Nursing

**Please be aware that although programs meet requirements set forth by other state boards of nursing, they may not meet the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission criteria.**

### Mail completed application to:

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NNCC  
P. O. Box 56  
Pitman, NJ 08071-0056

For more information, please visit the NNCC Web site at:

[www.nncc-exam.org](http://www.nncc-exam.org)



**Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission**

*Certification: Your Commitment to Quality Care*

**Steps toward Recertification for the Certified Nephrology Nurse – Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP)**

**Notification/Expiration**

As a courtesy, the NNCC notify certificants at 120, 90, 60, 45, and 30 days prior to certification expiration. Ultimately it is the certificant’s responsibility to obtain the necessary application form and submit it to the NNCC before the certification expiration date. The NNCC is not responsible for undelivered mail. **A recertification application may be obtained by visiting the NNCC website at [www.nncc-exam.org](http://www.nncc-exam.org) or by calling 888.884.6622 and requesting one be mailed to you.** Your completed application, appropriate forms, copies of supporting materials, and fee(s) must be submitted as required. **Keep a copy of your recertification application and supporting materials for your records.** Certification expires on the last day of the month, five years from the original date of certification.

**Recertification Options**

You may meet the recertification requirements by choosing either the examination option or the continuing education option.

1. If you elect the examination option, you may test within the year prior to expiration of your current certification. You must submit an examination application form and fee prior to the postmark deadline date printed on the exam schedule. An examination application and examination schedule may be obtained by visiting the NNCC website at [www.nncc-exam.org](http://www.nncc-exam.org) or by calling 888.884.6622. Processing of applications received after the deadline date cannot be guaranteed.
2. If you elect the continuing education option, you must submit a recertification application listing required documentation of continuing education and the recertification fee. The application for recertification must be postmarked by the last day of the month in which your certification expires.

**Eligibility Criteria**

To qualify you must be a Certified Nephrology Nurse – Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) and meet all of the eligibility requirements.

1. Must be a registered nurse holding a current, full and unrestricted license in the United States or its territories and be nationally certified as a nurse practitioner.

2. Must have at least 1000 hours experience as a Nephrology Nurse Practitioner during the last five years.
3. Must have acquired 150 contact hours, of continuing education, 100 of which must be in nephrology (CE/CME).
  - Five (5) contact hours allowed for every 40 hours as an official preceptor for Nephrology Nurse Practitioners, (up to 50 contact hours maximum).

**Fees**

**Recertification application fees are non-refundable.** Periodically fees are re-evaluated and adjustments may be made. Only NNCC Commissioners can authorize fee changes. The required fees are listed on the application forms.

**Verification of Certification**

If approved for recertification, certificants will receive a wallet card with expiration date within sixty (60) days of the date the National Office receives a recertification application. Replacement cards are available for a fee.

**Current Address**

It is the **certificant’s responsibility** to notify the NNCC National Office of any changes in name and/or address during the five (5) year period following certification/recertification. Notification of changes on other mailing lists, such as ANNA, will not effect a change in your recertification records.

**Emeritus Status**

Nurse Practitioners who have maintained an active credential, who are over 50 years of age, and who have retired from active practice may apply for emeritus status. To apply for the retired credential the certificant must complete the application for Emeritus Status (available on the NNCC website at [www.nncc-exam.org](http://www.nncc-exam.org) or by calling 888.884.6622) and submit a one time fee. If approved, the certificant may use the emeritus credential at nephrology functions to acknowledge a previous active credential and the accomplishments it signifies. If the certificant chooses to return to active practice and wishes to again hold the active credential, he/she must meet current eligibility criteria and certify by examination.