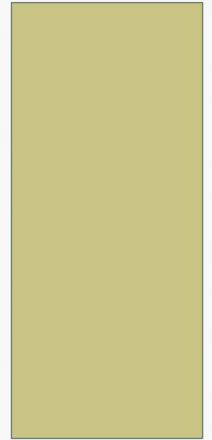


ACHIEVING NURSING CERTIFICATION

BENEFITS AND VALUE TO YOU AND YOUR
ORGANIZATION



WHO DOES CERTIFICATION MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO ?

- Certification makes a difference to patients receiving care from certified nurses.
- Certification makes a difference to the organization.
- Certification makes a difference to the individual nurse receiving certification.



WHAT IS NURSING CERTIFICATION?

- Certification is the formal recognition of specialized knowledge, skills, and experience.
- Certification is demonstrated by achieving standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote health outcomes.
- Certification assures the public that a nurse has completed all eligibility criteria to earn a specific credential.
- Certification promotes the development of specialty nursing by establishing competency standards and recognizing those who have met the standards.
- Certification is voluntary.
- Being a licensed RN does not indicate whether a nurse has obtained knowledge beyond the minimum requirement for licensure; certification does.



VALUE OF NURSING CERTIFICATION

- Patients who receive care from certified nurses have more confidence in their caregiver.
- Public awareness of certification has increased. 8 out of 10 people surveyed were aware that nurses can be certified in a specialty area; even more aware of nurse certification than educator or physician certification (Harris Interactive, Inc., 2002).
- A majority of nurses surveyed showed certification validates specialty knowledge, enhances professional credibility, and contributes to feelings of personal accomplishment (American Board of Nursing Specialties, 2006).
- Employers who have a workforce of certified nurses are better suited to distinguish themselves in the healthcare market. Certification factors into accreditation by The Joint Commission or awarding Magnet recognition to the organization by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.



REFERENCES

American Board of Nursing Specialties. (May, 2006). *Value of Specialty Nursing Certification Survey- Executive Summary.*

Harris Interactive, Inc. (November, 2002). *American Association of Critical Care Nurses Survey.*

ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION

Certified nurses must meet stringent eligibility criteria for nursing experience and specialty practice, and pass a comprehensive multiple-choice examination. This is done through the CCI-Competency and Credentialing Institute. Please refer to the link provided below to begin the process:

<http://www.cc-institute.org/cnor/steps-to-certification>

Requirements

- RN license is current and unrestricted.
- Currently working full-time or part time in perioperative nursing.
- Have completed a minimum of two years and 2400 hours experience in perioperative nursing with a minimum of 50% (1200 hours) in the intraoperative setting.