



PEDIATRIC NURSING
CERTIFICATION BOARD

PNCB Announces Unprecedented Action for CPNP-AC Exam Integrity

Swift action taken after initial investigation revealed exam items were compromised

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rockville, MD, March 4, 2019 - The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) announced today that it has launched an investigation into unlawful activity which has resulted in the Acute Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (CPNP-AC®) board examination being compromised. The investigation was launched as soon as PNCB became aware of the security issue. The investigation is ongoing.

The suspension period for testing will continue until April 15th when a completely new exam following the existing content outline is expected to be published. PNCB exam questions are developed through extensive volunteer work by pediatric nursing experts in practice.

This significant breach is a violation of copyright law and professional ethical nursing standards. Sharing exam questions obtained by any means is unethical and threatens exam integrity. Each nurse who applies for a PNCB exam must attest to non-disclosure of exam content and that they have read the [PNCB Exam Candidate Handbook](#). Applicants specifically attest that they agree not to disclose or communicate about exam questions with others. The Exam Candidate Handbook states:

It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute, or display these examination questions by any means, in whole or in part. Doing so may subject you to severe civil and criminal penalties. As an exam candidate, you agree not to disclose information about test questions and answers in any way. This includes talking about questions with your colleagues, supervisors, mentors, or teachers. Violation of this confidentiality agreement can jeopardize your certification or opportunity to become certified in the future. Protect yourself, your colleagues, and the credential by not discussing test questions with anyone.

“PNCB board certification assures the public that nurse practitioners who provide healthcare for children have met a national standard that assesses individual knowledge for entry to practice,” said PNCB CEO Peg Harrison, MS, CPNP-PC, CAE. “By immediately suspending testing and launching new exams, our actions tell the public that they can trust our validation process. We are sending a very clear message to testers and anyone seeking to compromise the integrity of our exams that we will not tolerate this behavior, and serious consequences will result.”

For media inquiries, contact Peg Harrison, MS, CPNP-PC, CAE, PNCB Chief Executive Officer at 1-888-641-2767. For legal inquiries, contact Nathan Breen at Howe & Hutton, Ltd. at 1-312-263-3001.

About PNCB

Established in 1975, PNCB is the largest pediatric nursing certification organization in the United States. PNCB promotes optimal outcomes in global pediatric health by providing certification services that validate specialized knowledge and continuing competence in pediatric nursing. More than 40,000 nursing professionals hold a PNCB certification. For more information about PNCB, visit www.pncb.org.