



PEDIATRIC NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD

Maintaining Certification

Statement of Purpose:

The Commission defines recertification as “requirements and procedures established as part of a certification program that certificants must meet to maintain competence and renew their certification.” The purpose of the PNCB's recertification program is to document continued growth in pediatric nursing knowledge for the PNCB-certified registered nurse (RN) or nurse practitioner. As such, PNCB's recertification requirements promote or enhance continuing competence.

An RN Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) passing the CPNP-PC, or CPNP-AC exam demonstrates to the public that they have met national standards for their certification. PNCB supports the concept of lifelong learning and the need for continuing competence as opposed to a lifetime granting of a credential and therefore requires a renewal or recertification process to document that credential holders are staying up to date in their certified role beyond the initial certification. The PNCB requires that certified nurses or nurse practitioners annually document completion of continuing education, clinical practice, academic coursework, or other professional learning activities to assure that they are enhancing their nursing knowledge. As all 50 states and US territories require registered nurses to renew their RN licenses at 1-, 2-, or 3-year intervals (state determined), the PNCB's annual recertification requirements help the nurse or nurse practitioner to not only enhance the respective knowledge associated with their earned certification, but also assist the nurse to meet requirements for compliance with state regulatory (RN licensure) guidelines and professional expectations.

Definition of Continuing Competence:

The Commission defines continuing competence as “demonstrating specified levels of knowledge, skills, or ability not only at the time of initial certification but throughout an individual's professional career.”

In 2013, as part of its continuing competence initiative, the PNCB Board of Directors underscored PNCB's beliefs about competence by endorsing the definition of continuing competence and beliefs about competence as created by the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (now Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center) and the American Board of Nursing Specialties below.

Definition:

Continuing competence is the ongoing commitment of a registered nurse to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills, and judgment with the attitudes, values, and beliefs required to practice safely, effectively, and ethically in a designated role and setting.

We believe that competence is:

1. A professional and ethical obligation to safe practice
2. A commitment made to the individual, the profession, and to consumers

3. A responsibility shared among the profession, regulatory bodies, certification agencies, professional associations, educators, healthcare organizations/workplaces, and individual nurses
 - a. Healthcare organizations/workplaces accept responsibility for measuring, documenting, and supporting competency, and for addressing any deficiencies in staff members' competency
4. Evolutionary, in that it builds upon previous competence and integrates new evidence.
5. Dynamic, fluid, and impacted by many factors as the individual enters new roles and new situations.

Period of Certification and Recertification:

Rationale for Annual Recertification:

(Also found at: <https://www.pncb.org/pncb-recertification-programs>)

Technology, treatment strategies, and groundbreaking studies can rapidly change practice in healthcare and nursing, and this becomes an issue for public safety. These reasons also support the PNCB's policy to require annual recertification for CPNs, CPNP-PCs, and CPNP-ACs. Annual recertification offers assurance to the public that these certificants are meeting stringent requirements for continuing competence by updating their knowledge and showing commitment to lifelong learning.

Annual recertification benefits certificants and the public in the following ways:

1. Annual recertification reassures employers that their PNCB-certified nursing staff are actively involved in strategies to grow knowledge and competency every year. It also reassures the public that activities supporting continuing competence are required on an annual basis of the certified nurse.
2. Annual recertification requires all certificants to update their contact information with the PNCB. Current certificant contact information is crucial in the event that a member of the public needs to file an ethics policy complaint.
3. Annual recertification reduces the certificant's burden of record keeping for continuing education activities that document compliance with recertification requirements. The cost of annual recertification is not a financial barrier as it does not exceed the average cost per year when compared to certification organizations that have a longer time interval (4 to 5 years) between required recertification.
4. Annual recertification also fosters a stronger relationship between certificants and the professional nursing community. Communication is enhanced as certificants are engaged in annual activities associated with strong professional growth.

Rationale for 7-year Recertification Cycle:

The process to renew a certification is an annual event, however there are requirements that occur within a 7-year cycle for CPNPs. Assessed continuing education (CE) is available in the form of online modules on the PNCB's learning management platform. There are specific requirements related to successful completion of a predetermined number of these modules within each 7-year cycle. Further, each module features core and specialty content in recently published peer reviewed journal articles and/or textbooks. The rationale for requiring assessed continuing education is that learning is active and documented through a passing score on a post-activity assessment, superior to passive CE typically obtained at membership conferences with no post-

activity assessment. The certificant is provided with a 7-year period to allow for the planning and completion of accredited and assessed CE which PNCB provides. The certificant can make choices among the topics offered to best align with their personal learning needs. The multi-year recertification cycle was established in 1979 by the PNCB Board of Directors

Verification of Recertification Requirements:

PNCB staff perform an audit of a minimum of 5% of recertification applications. Refer to Customer Service Audit Procedure.

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