

Promoting patient safety by enhancing provider quality.

NBCRNA Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program Development and Communication Timeline

Year/Date	Summary
1945	First national qualifying examination is initiated by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA).
1976	A mandatory continuing education program is adopted by the AANA membership at the 1976 Annual Meeting.
1978	Recertification program fully implemented. This recertification program for nurse anesthetists remains in place without modification until the present time.
1999	The Institute of Medicine publication <i>To Err is Human: Building A Safer Health System</i>. This publication recommends that more-rigorous recertification requirements be put in place.
1999	The ABMS announces Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program requirements to be implemented before the end of 2005.
1999	The American Board of Anesthesiology announces its MOC program. A recertification examination will be required for recertification every 10 years, beginning in 2010.
2002	The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (which accredits NBCRNA) implements new accreditation requirements pertaining to recertification. The NCCA requires that recertification activities measure or enhance continuing competence.
2003	The Institute of Medicine publishes <i>Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality</i>. The report recommends new approaches to health education, including a recommendation for health professions boards to required periodic demonstrations of competence through assessment.
2007	American Board of Nursing Specialties Accreditation Council announces a requirement to demonstrate maintenance of knowledge over time and to provide documentation showing how competence in the specialty is maintained over time. The American Board of Nursing Specialties Accreditation Council (now known as the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification), is the accreditor of the NBCRNA.
2007	National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) is incorporated. The Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists (CCNA) and the Council on Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (COR) incorporate as the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA), a corporate entity independent of the AANA.
2008	Institute for Credentialing Excellence publishes a recertification benchmarking study of the recertification literature. The study holds that traditional continuing education is not sufficient, but that it can be improved with end-of-activity assessments.
2008	NBCRNA completes a recertification professional practice analysis (PPA). The NBCRNA conducts a recertification professional practice analysis (PPA) to document that the content of a recertification examination for nurse anesthetists could go beyond the knowledge base required for initial certification.

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2008	A 3-year study of continuing certification models is conducted and 331 programs are benchmarked.
2009	A national professional practice analysis is completed and key elements in nurse anesthesia practice are identified. This practice analysis study is an integral part of ensuring that its recertification program has practice-related validity and that the aspects of nurse anesthesia addressed by the recertification program are essential, regardless of practice setting, patients, and conditions.
2009	A summary document, <i>Future of Recertification</i>, outlines the proposed key components for the future recertification process. The Task Force proposed changes related to realigning the recertification cycle with those of other nursing specialties.
2009-2010	Focus sessions were held at AANA sponsored meetings. Focus sessions were held at AANA sponsored meetings to engage nurse anesthetists in discussions about the proposed <i>Future of Recertification</i> document.
2010	NBCRNA representatives attend more than 30 state association meetings and host 10 focus groups to discuss the proposed changes with educators, practitioners, and students.
2010	NBCRNA convenes a Recertification Task Force to consider the information collected over the previous 3 years (the practice analysis and nurse anesthetist feedback, supplemented by research regarding the need for and value of continued competence efforts in health care) to develop recommendations for the recertification program. NBCRNA informed the AANA Board of Directors and requested one member of the AANA Board of Directors to sit on the task force to represent AANA interests.
2011	NBCRNA reaches out to nurse anesthetists for input on the recertification program through presentations at state meetings, email and surface mail, and AANA and NBCRNA surveys. Over 12,000 pieces of information were collated and analyzed to help operationalize the CPC program and modify program components to address stakeholder input.
2011	Based on its analysis of input from nurse anesthetists, the NBCRNA recommends modifications to the original <i>Future of Recertification (CPC)</i> proposal. The proposed modifications addressed cost, time, professional practice requirements, recertification testing, and re-entry into practice.
2011	The NBCRNA assembled a group of experts in certification, education, and practice development (Delphi Panels) to evaluate the potential modifications to the original CPC proposal. The Delphi panel assists in establishing a valid set of CPC Program items that were consistent with the vision of the NBCRNA and addressed identified concerns of stakeholders.
2011	Anesthesiology assistants are required to recertify with continuing education and a recertification examination every 6 years.

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2011 July	Recertification Task Force presents final proposal to NBCRNA Board of Directors for approval.
2011 July	<p>Initial CPC Program Proposal by the Recertification Task Force</p> <p>Length of Cycle Four (4) years</p> <p>Initial Certification and Licensure. Recertification is contingent on having initial certification and a current and valid registered nursing and/or advanced nursing practice license as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist by NBCRNA or its predecessor(s).</p> <p>Work/Practice Documentation of at least 425 hours per year in nurse anesthesia work practice with requirements for individuals who do not document compliance with the professional work practice requirement.</p> <p>CE Requirement 35 continuing education credits per year (140 over 4 years): 20 credits per year in non-assessed educational activities and 15 credits per year in assessed CE.</p> <p>CPC Modules NBCRNA requires four core competency modules in every recertification cycle, one in each of four core competency areas.</p> <p>Examination Successful completion of a standardized recertification examination every 8 years (at any time during the second four-year recertification cycle) by December 31, 2023.</p> <p>Reentry Program If more than 90 days have transpired, these individuals will be required to satisfy the eligibility criteria for recertification at the time of their reapplication as well as apply for and pass the entry-level National Certification Examination.</p> <p>Start date January 1, 2015 start date.</p> <p>Core Competencies The four core competency areas were identified with the initial CPC program proposal. These areas were: Airway management techniques; Applied clinical pharmacology; Human physiology and pathophysiology; Anesthesia technology.</p> <p>Enhanced Competencies The six enhanced competencies were identified with the initial CPC program proposal. These enhanced competencies were: Access, evaluate, and apply sources of information; Current research and evidence-based practice; Current standard of practice; Current regulatory and facility accreditation requirements; Leadership for interprofessional teams; Expanding specialized knowledge and skill.</p>
2011 Aug	<p>Proposed CPC program presented to full AANA Board of Directors. The summary overview included an introduction to the new program that will replace NBCRNA’s current recertification program; an overview of current concepts in professional credentialing that supports the changes; and clarification of the advantages of moving to a new model for recertification.</p>

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2011 Aug	NBCR NA presents the proposed CPC Program at the full 2011 AANA Annual Meeting General concepts of the CPC Program are presented to the nurse anesthetist community during the Business Meeting at the 2011 AANA Annual Meeting.
2011 Fall	The proposed CPC Program was opened for full comprehensive public review and comment The NBCR NA reviewed and considered over 13,000 comments received from engaged CRNAs in the development of the final program. NBCR NA also issued monthly emails and one hard copy mailing to over 35,000 CRNAs during the open comment period. During this time, NBCR NA communicated regularly with the AANA, and collected survey information from NBCR NA and AANA surveys.
2011 Fall	Complementing the CPC public comment period process, NBCR NA representatives attend 32 state meetings to engage with members, CRNAs, and other stakeholders to present and explain the proposed CPC Program, as well as answer questions.
2011 Sept	NBCR NA was invited to present and participate in a question and answer session at the Joint Committee Conference of the AANA Board of Directors meeting. The NBCR NA and AANA discussed key concepts of the program, communications, and implementation.
2012 Jan	<p>CPC Recommended Revisions Approved by the NBCR NA Board of Directors. The results of the Delphi process, literature review, and nurse anesthetist input and analysis were used to produce the CPC Committee recommendations for modifications to the original program.</p> <p>Length of Cycle The program should include a “progress audit” for each certificant, to be completed every 2 years.</p> <p>Work/Practice The Professional Work Requirement removed the requirement for a specified number of hours of practice.</p> <p>CE Requirement The continuing education requirement will be 15 assessed CE units per year. The assessed credits must be prior approved, while the non-assessed professional activity units are self-monitored by the nurse anesthetist.</p> <p>Professional Activity Unit Professional activity units were first introduced to the CPC program after the public comment period.</p> <p>CPC Modules After public comment, the Board approved modules will provide assessed continuing education credits.</p> <p>Examination A competency examination will be phased into the program over the next 20 years. During an anesthetist’s first 8-year interval, the examination will be used for diagnostic and developmental purposes (a nurse anesthetist failing to meet the performance standard in any major content area will complete additional continuing education credits in that category). The requirement date for meeting the passing standard moved from 2023 to 2032.</p> <p>Reentry Program A reentry program will be established with predetermined criteria.</p> <p>Start date The NBCR NA Board of Directors moved the CPC program start date to January 1, 2016.</p>

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2012 Feb	The NBCRNA President sends a letter to CRNAs, outlining the changes in requirements resulting from feedback.
2012 Mar	NBCRNA meets with the AANA Board of Directors to provide a CPC Program Overview. The presentation by the NBCRNA described how the Delphi process, literature review, and stakeholder input helped to produce the final CPC Committee recommendations for modifications to the original program, which reflected the input of many stakeholders.
2012	IOM Releases Report titled <i>Redesigning Continuing Education in Health Professions</i> To be most effective, health professionals at every stage of their careers must continue learning about advances in research and treatment in their fields (and related fields) in order to obtain and maintain up-to-date knowledge and skills in caring for their patients.
2013 Jan	CPC Revisions Recommended <i>CPC Modules</i> The NBCRNA Board of Directors removes NBCRNA from the development and delivery of the module CE product.
2013 Sept	CPC Recommended Revisions Are Approved by the NBCRNA Board of Directors <i>Professional Activity Unit</i> Categories, descriptions, values, and audit documentation are reflected in the “PAU Reference Table” that is located on the NBCRNA website <i>CPC Modules</i> The NBCRNA Board of Directors approves module instructional designs and a recognition panel process to ensure adherence to a module’s instructional design <i>Examination</i> The NBCRNA Board of Directors approved the CPC Examination content outline and weighted content domain percentages. <i>Reentry Program</i> The Reentry Program was approved
2013 Fall	CPC Survey conducted of the CRNAs 45,586 emails sent; 3,207 responded.
2013	2 National CPC Program webinars conducted.
2014 Jan	CPC Recommended Revisions Are Approved by the NBCRNA Board of Directors <i>CE Requirement</i> Allowing life support courses to be reported as assessed CEs or PAUs. This recommendation was made based on stakeholder feedback received from a survey conducted in October and November 2013. <i>Examination</i> Require the completion of one additional module for each domain area in which a nurse anesthetist does not achieve a performance standard on the CPC diagnostic examination.

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2014 April	Webinar on the Assessed CE component of the CPC program NBCRNA together with AANA provided an assessed CE webinar to discuss the assessed CE Component of the CPC program.
2014 May	<p>CPC Recommended Revisions Approved by the NBCRNA Board of Directors</p> <p>CE Requirement The NBCRNA and AANA agree that the AANA Continuing Education Committee would continue to be responsible for the development of the assessed CE criteria.</p> <p>CPC Modules After stakeholder comment, the NBCRNA Board of Directors retained the requirement that the module assessment be delivered electronically, but module delivery mode was expanded beyond web-only; vendors will determine which module performance objectives will be covered in a module based on the latest evidence; module CE caps were removed.</p> <p>Examination The NBCRNA Board of Directors changed the end date for the group that will qualify for the CPC Diagnostic Examination.</p>
2014 June	NBCRNA participates in the AANA Recertification Summit.
2014 July	<p>CPC Recommended Revisions Approved by the NBCRNA Board of Directors</p> <p>Examination The NBCRNA Board of Directors approved a modified CPC Examination content outline.</p>
2014	NBCRNA representatives attend more than 22 state meetings
2014 Fall	<p>CPC Changes by the NBCRNA Board of Directors At the request of the AANA, on behalf of the membership, NBCRNA Board of Directors approved changes to the terminology of CPC Program components.</p> <p>CE Requirement The term assessed continuing education requirement to Class A credits</p> <p>Professional Activity Unit The term Professional Activity Unit (PAU) was changed to Class B credits</p> <p>Examination The term Diagnostic was removed from the CPC Examination description. Both the performance standard and passing standard CPC Examinations are called CPC Examinations.</p> <p>Start Date: The CPC Program start date was moved back to August 1, 2016.</p> <p>CPC Core Modules will be voluntary for the first 4-year cycle</p> <p>Examination: Additional options will be explored beyond retaking a CPC module for CRNAs who do not meet the performance standards of the “low stakes” CPC Examination during the 2020-2024 recertification cycle.</p>
2016 Aug 1	CPC Launch Date