

NBCRNA

National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

Nonsurgical Pain Management: A Voluntary Subspecialty Credential for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

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Mission

To promote patient safety
through credentialing programs
that support lifelong learning

Approved Definition of Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM)

The administration of regional blocks and the use of pain strategies and techniques for the management of acute and chronic pain (**outside of the OR and L and D suite**) which may include assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of multi-modal approaches in providing patient care.

Why a NSPM Subspecialty Credential?

- Promotes patient safety by enhancing provider quality
- History of reimbursement challenges
 - Addressing CMS concerns
- Requests by the CRNAs practicing in this subspecialty area
 - Various states regulatory processes are mandating
- Encourages lifelong learning

Letter to CMS on 9/4/2012

Signed by:

- AANA Past-President Izlar
- COA Chair Cook
- NBCRNA President Vacchiano

“In the interest of maintaining patient safety and improving access to qualified pain management care being provided by CRNAs jointly submit this letter to demonstrate the continued commitment of the nurse anesthesia profession to promote high quality and safe delivery of chronic pain management.”

Letter to CMS (continued)

“Our organizations are committed to developing enhanced standards, each within its own area of expertise, furthering the advancement, establishment, and maintenance of rigorous and evidence-based standards for CRNA practice of chronic pain management...accordingly we are each committed to developing enhanced accreditation (COA), credentialing (NBCRNA), and practice standards (AANA) to achieve these goals.”

NSPM Subspecialty Credential

- A comprehensive credential for the CRNA who practices in the area of NSPM
- A robust approach whereby CRNAs can verify that rigorous credentialing processes were met; processes in which they had opportunity to demonstrate their advanced knowledge and skill in this area
- **Meets the needs** of those in pain management practice **not** being paid by private insurers because of lack of recognition of having an educational basis as demonstrated by certification

Objectives Met

- Creation of a template for a subspecialty credential in nurse anesthesia practice
- Developed the subspecialty credential for NSPM
 - Identifies the knowledge and skill set to be a candidate for the credential
 - Discussed the criteria for multiple paths the CRNA followed, and will
 - Award the SAME credential
 - Developed a “portfolio model” for CRNAs to use to demonstrate their knowledge and skill in NSPM

Portfolio Model

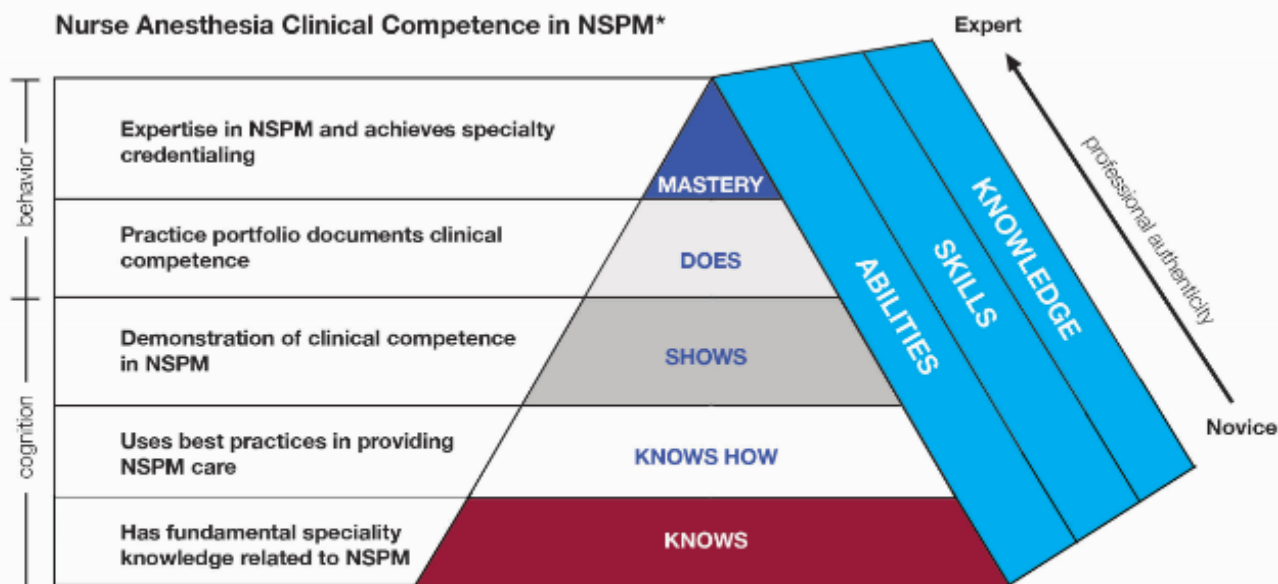
A process and product for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists which demonstrates acquisition of knowledge and skills in the area of NSPM

- Encompasses all necessary information that demonstrates that a nurse anesthetist is qualified to attain the subspecialty credential

Portfolio

- Operational definition
 - *a set of pieces of creative work intended to demonstrate a person's ability*
- What it contains
 - Appropriate licensure data
 - Recertification data
 - Attestation of performance in the subspecialty area
 - Experience via description of NSPM techniques in current practice
 - Outcome data
 - Validation of education in subspecialty area
 - Other

The foundations for the NSPM subspecialty credential are based on the Clinical Competence model initially developed by eminent psychologist George E. Miller. This model integrates the cognitive and behavioral skills with a practitioner's level of expertise.



Based on work by Miller GE, The Assessment of Clinical Skills/Competence/Performance; Acad. Med. 1990; 65(9): 63-67
 Adapted by Drs. R. Mehay & R. Burns, UK (Jan 2009)

- **Knowledge** - is the fundamental subspecialty knowledge related to NSPM
- **Skill** - is the use of best practices in the demonstration of clinical competence in NSPM
- **Ability** - is applying knowledge and skills to comprehensive NSPM practice



APPROVED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE NSPM SUBSPECIALTY CREDENTIAL FOR CRNAS

To Initially Qualify for the Subspecialty Credential

1) Licensure Criterion

The CRNA must have a current unrestricted license as a RN and/or APRN, as geographically/state applicable

2) Current Nurse Anesthetist Certification Status Criterion

The applicant must possess current full recertification as a nurse anesthetist

To Initially Qualify for the Subspecialty Credential

3) Clinical Experience Criterion

The CRNA applicant must have 2 years of nurse anesthesia clinical experience at the time of the NSPM application

4) Attestation Experience Criterion

Applicant must attest to being actively engaged in nurse anesthesia clinical practice

To Initially Qualify for the Subspecialty Credential

5) Education Criterion

The applicant must provide evidence of completion of education activity in each of the following areas that have been completed within the immediate prior 4 years from the date of application:

- Physiology and pathophysiology of pain
- Imaging safety
- Assessment/diagnosis/integration/referral
- Pharmacological treatment
- Interventional pain strategies
- Professional aspects

To Initially Qualify for the Subspecialty Credential

6) Clinical Competence Criterion

The applicant must submit a practice portfolio which includes:

- 3 letters of support describing evidence of competence in patient evaluation and findings, NSPM techniques, safe needle placement and post-care assessment

(Note: The letters of support may be from a professional colleague who has observed the practitioner's NSPM technique and/or outcomes)

To Initially Qualify for the Subspecialty Credential

7) Skills Assessment Criterion

The CRNA applicant will demonstrate successful completion of an assessed NSPM cadaver or assessed simulation course

8) Examination (assessment) Criterion

The CRNA applicant will demonstrate successful completion of the NSPM subspecialty certification examination in order to be granted the NSPM credential

NSPM CRNA Taskforce

- A group of nurse anesthetists who are demographically diverse and who have varying degrees of expertise in the NSPM subspecialty practice
- The taskforce accepted the responsibility for providing input to the NBCRNA BOD re: the eligibility criteria for NSPM subspecialty certification

NSPM Examination

The creation of the NSPM examination involves:

- 1) Developing and administering a current professional practice analysis (PPA)
 - Distributed to CRNAs
 - Identifies content areas, knowledge and tasks associated with the role of NSPM CRNA
- 2) Developing the test blueprint based on PPA and additional input from task force
- 3) Identification of practice competencies matched to the PPA
- 4) Determination of the numbers and types of questions
- 5) Identification and training of test item writers
- 6) Creation of item writing assignments based on test blueprint and content areas
- 7) Creation of the test item bank and appropriate statistical computations
- 8) Performance of a passing standard process
- 9) Determining the details of where/how/when the exam will occur
- 10) Evaluation of items and candidate performance

Cost Considerations

- NBCRNA has invested in this program
 - Value of this subspecialty to our constituents
 - Meet commitment
- Cost expenditures
 - Consultants for development
 - Technology for testing
- Keep certificant costs reasonable

Contact

- Provide feedback/questions to board@nbcrna.com

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