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Notification of Development Need: NSPM Core Competency Module

Date of Notice: April 2, 2018

Invitation to Develop

The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) is soliciting the development and offering (hosting) of a new category of Core Competency Module that will be used by nurse anesthetists who seek to maintain their subspecialty certification in Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C). This offering will need to be prepared and ready for use by January 1, 2020. Interested individuals should contact the NBCRNA for any questions related to this endeavor. Please direct your inquiries to:

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1. Purpose

The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) is soliciting the development and offering (hosting) of a new category of Core Competency Module that will be used by nurse anesthetists who seek to maintain their subspecialty certification in Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C). This offering will need to be prepared and ready for use by January 1, 2020.

2. Background Information

The mission of the NBCRNA is to promote patient safety through credentialing programs that support lifelong learning. Toward that end, the NBCRNA offers certification in subspecialty practice for CRNAs who practice in nonsurgical pain management (NSPM) and who meet all the established criteria for certification as a NSPM-C. The subspecialty credential is based upon the maintenance of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) credential. In order to become certified in nonsurgical pain management, a candidate must pass an initial NSPM-C certification examination. Continued NSPM-C certification requires adherence to a number of published elements (continued eligibility requirements).

Currently, CRNAs must demonstrate compliance with NSPM-C requirements every four years, in conjunction with their CPC compliance. One of the maintenance requirements of the NSPM-C credential is the completion of an additional NSPM Core Competency Module (***over and above*** the Core Module requirements of the CPC Program) based on NBCRNA established objectives.

Description of the NSPM Core Competency Module
The NSPM Core Competency Module will deliver educational content, based upon objectives defined by the NBCRNA, in a web based format followed by an immediate assessment of material mastery. This module must qualify for Class A assessed continuing education (CE) units. Please recognize that vendors must go through a prior approval process with an accredited CE approval agency (e.g., AANA) to award assessed CE before final module delivery. NBCRNA Recognition is dependent upon the vendor's ability to successfully evidence this approval to the NBCRNA.

3. Submission Parameters for NBCRNA review for Recognition

    A. To submit an NSPM Core Competency Module for NBCRNA recognition, providers must:

1. Submit the electronic module(s) content based on NBCRNA's published NSPM Core Competency Module objectives (see Appendix A). The submission must include the assessment(s) and all other requested materials for review by the NBCRNA's Review Panel.

2. Submit documentation for initial review by the NBCRNA. The most practical approach is for vendors to complete the NBCRNA recognition process prior to the submission for CE approval, to limit the number of revisions and additional reviews required to obtain NBCRNA Recognition.

3. Providers must provide subsequent documentation of CE approval from an accredited approval agency.

4. Describe the provider's experience in delivering continuing education, the expertise of module developers, and a description of current infrastructure to support ongoing module-related activity.

5. The provider will be assessed the following fees in an effort to recover the projected module review and recognition costs:

    a. An initial recognition review fee of $2,500 for first time review of the module.

    b.   A data transfer fee, based on volume of data transfer for a 12-month period from 1/1 to 12/31 of a given year; or partial year as appropriate, at a rate of $75/hour of staff workload to verify data.

    c.   An annual module review fee of $500 per module per year, beginning in year 2 of module recognition.

    d.   All fees must be paid electronically and are nonrefundable.

    e.   All fees are subject to change based on actual costs at time of implementation.

B. **Vendor submitted materials must address the following areas:**

    1. <u>Module Development</u>:

    For the module the provider is seeking recognition for, the provider must:

        a.   Document the process (e.g., evidence-based approach, included/excluded content, use of subject matter experts (SME)/peer-reviewed) in developing the module content. The content must be consistent with the NBCRNA established instructional goals, instructional objectives (Attachment A) and performance objectives. **The performance objectives will be sent to the provider upon request following the receipt of a letter of intent to produce competency modules.**

        b.   Submit a reference list for the resources used in module development according to AMA guidelines. Resources cited must be current and relevant to the module topic.

        c.   Describe the process for providing evidence of content validity based upon NBCRNA's established instructional goals, instructional objectives and performance objectives.

        d.   Avoid the introduction of commercial bias.

        e.   Disclose any conflict of interests to NBCRNA for module developers, SMEs, or beta testers.

    2. <u>Module Delivery</u>:

    The provider must:

        a.   Describe the plans to continuously offer the module during the approved cycle.

        b.   Describe methods to be used for verifying identity of the individual completing the module and assessment.

        c.   Describe a planned method for web delivery of modules to ensure access for all certificants.

        d.   Publish the reference list in AMA format citing resources used in developing the module for module users.

        e.   Describe plans to address and resolve technology-related issues (e.g., technical support, issues, questions, guidance).

        f.   Describe plans for providing any additional support for module users.

    g.   Describe methods to ensure ADA-compliance for module delivery.

3. Module Assessment:

NBCRNA will only accept an individual module performance score that is equal to or greater than 80% of items answered correctly.

For each module the provider is seeking recognition for, the provider must:

    a.   Adhere to best practices for item writing.

    b.   Provide evidence of coding the NBCRNA instructional goals, instructional objectives, and performance objectives to the assessment.

    c.   Provide evidence of the reliability of the assessment.

    d.   Describe the process used during pilot testing of the assessment for the module and provide results to the NBCRNA.

    e.   Provide evidence of any changes made to module assessment based on pilot results or at the request of NBCRNA.

    f.   Document decision making process used to establish assessment (e.g., number of items, versions of assessment, management of item bank, frequency of question rotation, etc.)
        a.   Minimum requirements are to provide 10 questions with a maximum of 50 questions.
        b.   Allow for three testing attempts maximal per module, with no more than 40% of identical questions across attempts.

    g.   Describe parameters for length of time users will have access to modules once started, number of attempts allowed to access the module, number of assessed CEs earned, pass rate for success.
        a.   Once started, the user must complete the module within at least four months or the maximum number of attempts, and may not extend past the individual's certification end date.
        b.   The module must start and end during the individual's CPC cycle.

    h.   Describe semi-annual process that will be used to review item statistics for the assessment and implement changes supported by item statistics.

    i.   Provide semi-annual reports electronically detailing assessment statistics and module usage to the NBCRNA.

    j.   Describe mechanism for allowing the NBCRNA to review the module(s) and assessment(s) as determined necessary by the NBCRNA (upon request, the NBCRNA must be allowed access to module for the determination of compliance with recognition requirements).

4. Transfer of Participant Data:

The provider must:

    a.   Describe the planned process for electronically transferring individual CRNA completion information to the NBCRNA on a monthly basis.

    b.   For the monthly report (identified in the preceding paragraph), the module provider must Include, at a minimum:

      a.   participant name
      b.   participant identification number (i.e. AANA number)
      c.   module topic area (i.e. NSPM)
      d.   module start date
      e.   module completion date
      f.   number of assessed CEs earned
      g.   results of module assessment scores

   c.   Describe planned methods for ensuring accuracy of module completion record tracking and transfer of data.

   d.   Describe methods to encrypt or secure transfer of data.

5. Module Maintenance:

The provider must:

   a.   Provide documentation regarding the planned process and frequency for updating the module to ensure continued availability of the current version of the same module.

   b.   Update modules at least every four years and the revised module replaces the previous corresponding module.

   c.   Ensure that all users actively engaged in the module have adequate time to complete prior to removing or inactivating the module.

   d.   Notify NBCRNA one year in advance of the provider's intent to remove the module from the marketplace.

   e.   If substantive practice changes occur in the environment such that the NBCRNA deems edits to the current module are warranted, the vendor must be able to demonstrate a mechanism to update the module prior to the four-year time frame described above.

6. Module Evaluation and Security:

The provider must:

   a.   Provide examples of a program evaluation that will be used upon completion of the module.

   b.   Describe annual plans to review and implement changes supported by program evaluation results.

   c.   Provide semi-annual summary program evaluation results (i.e. semi-annual performance data) electronically to the NBCRNA.

   d.   Describe planned methods for ensuring security of module content and module assessment(s).

   e.   Describe mechanism for identity validation of the module user.

Appendix A

NSPM Core Module Instructional Design

I. Physiology and Pathophysiology of Pain

Instructional Objective: The Learner will be able to recognize physiological and pathophysiological events and situations, and manage the anesthetic in accordance with evidence-based practices, as they relate to NSPM, with respect to the following categories:

A. Applicable anatomy and physiology of pain
B. Nociception: transduction, transmission, perception and modulation of pain
C. Factors influencing pain
D. Cellular response to pain and treatment
E. Pain classifications
F. Evidence based principles
G. Pathophysiology
    a. Neurotransmitters
    b. Inflammatory mediators
    c. Pain pathways

II. Imaging Safety

Instructional Objective: The Learner will be able to recognize imaging safety events and situations, and manage patient care in accordance with evidence-based practices, as they relate to NSPM, with respect to the following categories:

A. Evaluation of equipment
B. Equipment safety
C. Radiation safety
D. Safe practices with imaging equipment
E. Provider and Staff safety
F. Patient safety

III. Assessment / Diagnosis / Integration / Referral

Instructional Objective: The Learner will be able to recognize and manage the assessment, diagnostic, integrative, and referral aspects of patient care in accordance with evidence-based practices, as they relate to NSPM, with respect to the following categories:

A. Physical examination
B. Pain generators
C. Health history

D. Diagnostic studies
      a. MRI
      b. CT
      c. EMG
      d. X-ray
      e. Discogram
E. Documentation
F. Data interpretation
G. Treatment plan
H. Imaging strategies
I. Clinical judgment
J. Multidisciplinary collaboration

IV. Pharmacological Treatment

Instructional Objective: The Learner will be able to recognize and respond to normal and abnormal pharmacological actions, interactions, and adverse effects of medications, as they relate to NSPM, with respect to the following categories:

A. Pharmacology and pain
      a. NSAIDS
      b. Opioids
      c. Anticonvulsants
      d. Antidepressants
      e. Muscle relaxants
      f. Antiepileptic drugs
      g. Local anesthetics
      h. Corticosteroids
      i. Nutraceuticals
      j. Supplements
      k. NMDA receptor antagonists
B. Drugs for pain interventions
C. Drug interactions
D. Botanical, herbal, nutraceuticals and homeopathic treatments
E. Risks and benefits of drug therapy
F. Patient safety
G. Regulatory requirements
H. Safe drug practices

V. Interventional Pain Strategies

Instructional Objective: The Learner will be able to identify and incorporate interventional pain strategies, and manage patient care in accordance with evidence-based practices, as they relate to NSPM, with respect to the following categories.

      A. Indications for advanced imaging
      B. Targeted treatment of pain
      C. Global treatment of pain
      D. Implementation of care plan
      E. Consideration of comorbidities
      F. Imaging strategies
      G. Contrast studies
      H. Complications: risk assessment, identification and interventions
      I. Treatment goals
      J. Patient monitoring
      K. Use of neuroablative techniques

VI. Professional Aspects

Instructional Objective: The Learner will be able to incorporate professional aspects, and manage patient care in accordance with evidence-based practices, as they relate to NSPM, with respect to the following categories.

      A. Informed consent
      B. Protection of patient rights
      C. Outcome measurements
      D. Patient follow-up
      E. Legal, statutory and regulatory issues