

## Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C) Professional Practice Analysis (PPA) Executive Summary

NBCRNA conducted a Professional Practice Analysis for the voluntary subspecialty certification for nurse anesthetists in Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM), collecting data between September 27, 2019, to October 23, 2019.

A professional practice analysis study is designed to obtain descriptive information about the knowledge needed for safe and effective practice on the job. The purpose of this study was to:

- Update and validate the listing of knowledge required for work performed by nurse anesthetists practicing in the subspecialty of nonsurgical pain management;
- Update test specifications for the NSPM-C certification examination; and
- Obtain useful information that can guide educational and professional development initiatives for individuals practicing in the subspecialty of nonsurgical pain management.

### Conduct of the Professional Practice Analysis

The practice analysis study consisted of several activities: collaboration with subject matter experts to ensure representativeness of identified knowledge statements; survey development; survey dissemination; compilation of survey results; and test specifications development. The successful outcome of the study depended on the excellent information provided in various phases of the study by the subject matter experts.

### Survey Development

Survey research is an efficient and effective way to identify the knowledge that is important for a professional role. The 96 knowledge statements included on the survey covered six domains of practice in nonsurgical pain management. Development of the survey was based on a draft of knowledge statements developed from current test specifications, along with results of an extensive literature review, and was refined by a task force of subject matter experts appointed by NBCRNA.

### Survey Content and Distribution

The survey was disseminated on September 27, 2019 and remained available through October 23, 2019. The survey consisted of four sections.

### Survey Sections

Section 1: Background and General Information

Section 2: Knowledge Statements

Section 3: Test Content Recommendations

Section 4: Additional Comments

## **RESULTS**

### **Survey Response Rate**

The NSPM-C survey was disseminated using an open participation link emailed to all certified nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) but with a request that only those with nonsurgical pain management training and/or experience complete the survey. A significant number of CRNAs opened the survey but exited without completing once noticing knowledge of and experience with nonsurgical pain management were needed. Based on survey responses to background questions, additional CRNAs were eliminated from analyses as having no education in or experience with nonsurgical pain management. Ultimately, a representative group of individuals completed the survey in sufficient numbers to meet the requirements for conducting statistical analyses. This was evidenced by review of the responses for each of the background questions and confirmed by the Test Specifications Panel.

### **Survey Ratings**

Participants were asked to rate the knowledge statements on importance for nonsurgical pain management practice using a five-point scale (0=Of no importance to 4=Very important), and on frequency of use using a three-point scale (0=Never to 2=Eleven or more times per month).

### **Results at a Glance:**

- **WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY**

A total of 309 responses were used for analysis. Most respondents (66%) have been certified nurse anesthetists more than 10 years. All have practiced nonsurgical pain management (range 1 to 10+ years). As to gender, the proportion of males (58%) was slightly higher than proportion of males in the CRNA population as a whole.

- **KNOWLEDGE RATINGS**

Of the 96 knowledge statements included in the survey, 95 achieved high importance ratings and 73 received high frequency ratings. Indices of Agreement confirmed ratings alignment across all demographic variables.

### **Test Specifications Development**

In January 2020, a Test Specifications Panel was convened in-person to review results of the survey and to create the test content outline that will guide updating of the NSPM-C exam.

### **Summary**

In summary, this study used a multi-method approach in identifying the knowledge and cognitive skills that are important for the competent practice as a nurse anesthetist. The practice analysis process allowed for input from a representative group of CRNAs experienced in nonsurgical pain management and was conducted within the guidelines of professionally sound practice. The results of the study can be used by NBCRNA to update the NSPM-C exam and to guide professional development initiatives.