



Your March 2017 Newsletter

NCE Professional Practice Analysis PPA

At the 2017 Assembly of School Faculty (ASF) NBCRNA's Tim Muckle, PhD, and Jeremy Heiner, EdD, MSN, CRNA of Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia presented the NCE Professional Practice Analysis (PPA). Their presentation outlined the process, results and implication of the most recent (2016) NCE PPA. The presentation will be available by April on the NBCRNA [Program Administration](#) web page.

Questions from ASF were gathered and a Q&A appears at the end of this newsletter.

Joint Student Enrollment Project



The NBCRNA and the AANA are working collaboratively to launch a joint student enrollment process. This system will provide one point of access for programs and students to provide enrollment demographic data for both organizations, streamlining the enrollment process for all. System testing will begin in April with an expected launch date in late May 2017. Instructions and templates will follow as they become available.

Interim Interpretive Guide for the Self Evaluation Exam (SEE)

An interim SEE interpretive guide has been posted on our [website](#). The information contained in the guide is intended to aid in interpreting test takers' scores arising from the new reconfigured SEE. Students and Program Administrators may use these instructions to compare SEE performance using data tables reflective of the student's year in program and exam content area.

Call for Emerging Leader Fellow



The NBCRNA is now accepting applications for an Emerging Leader Fellow. This fellowship position is open to CRNAs who have been initially certified in the past five years. It is a one-year opportunity for newly certified nurse anesthetists identified as future leaders in the profession to gain exposure to board governance, high-level decision making, and trends affecting the future of the profession. Please reach out to any of your recent graduates who would be interested in this opportunity. Job Responsibilities and the Emerging Leader Fellowship Application are available on our [website](#).

Please forward to your recent graduates that may be interested in this opportunity. [Applications](#) will be accepted through March 31.

CPCE Practice



Last month, the NBCRNA launched the new practice exam for CRNAs called *CPCE Practice*. *CPCE Practice* is a 40-question practice exam covering the four core domains of anesthesia practice and can be taken up to three times over the course of a year. Two Class A credits can be earned by achieving an 80% score within three attempts. When the CE portion or the third attempt are completed, participants will have access to all 80 questions in the question bank for a year from the date of purchase. *CPCE Practice* will provide personalized feedback. A free, 20-question sample, *Quick20*, is also available which provides instant answer feedback and can be taken an unlimited number of times. More information and access to the exams can be found on the [NBCRNA website](#).

*Note: *CPCE Practice* has been prior approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for two Class A CE credits; Code Number 1033196; Expiration Date 9/30/19. No CE is available for *Quick20*.

Item Writing Courses

The NBCRNA offers three online, self-paced item-writing courses developed by NBCRNA to offer a foundation for potential item writers.:

- Course 1: Item-Writing Theory and Practice: Foundation *2.75 Class A credits*
- Course 2: Item-Writing Theory and Practice: Alternative Question Formats *1.0 Class A credit*
- Course 3: Item-Writing Theory and Practice: Writing Clinical Scenario Items Series *1.5 Class A credit*

See more information on these courses [here](#), or email learning@nbcrna.com if you or your staff are interested in taking these courses.

Online Student Management

The Online Student Management system is accessible to all COA-designated program administrators. Additional academic staff members may have access to the system if designated by the program administrator. Program designees may perform all functions except final approvals of Student Enrollments and NCE applications. System instructions are posted on the website and individual tutorials are available upon request.

Important Reminder: Please access the Run Reports section to save the Application Summary and Transcript documents submitted by your program to the NBCRNA. The COA requires that the NCE materials submitted to the NBCRNA be retained by the program. These documents are only available for 18 months after graduation and are available in PDF format to print and/or save.

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Q & A from the 2017 Assembly of School Faculty (ASF) Regarding Testing

1. What are the time requirements to be an item writer?

Item writers will participate in at least one in-person meeting and typically four to five 2-hour virtual meetings each year.

a. How many questions do I need to write?

There are two item-writing assignments per year of 20-30 questions per assignment.

b. Who decides on the assignments?

NBCRNA Testing staff perform an item bank needs assessment and develop the assignment based on the results. This is then reviewed and approved by the subcommittee chair.

c. How often are the conference calls and how many meetings.

Please see first response above.

2. NCE PPA

a. Once the recording and slides are posted from the presentation who will I contact with questions?

Please contact certification@nbcrna.com with any questions.

b. Will the executive summary or detailed report be available?

Yes. This will be available on the NBCRNA website in April 2017.

c. When will the detailed new outline be published?

The new outline will be available in April of 2017.

d. When will the new NCE outline go into effect?

The new NCE outline will go into effect January 1, 2018.

e. How long will it take NBCRNA to develop and add the PI questions on the NCE?

Professional Issues questions are currently being developed and will be included in the NCE effective January 1, 2018.

f. Since I have students currently enrolled in my program who may finish in December 2017, is it really fair that they may now have PI topics on their NCE January 2018?

Professional Issues is a topic of great importance throughout the healthcare community and is currently a point of emphasis in many educational programs. Advance notice has been given to program directors so both programs and students can prepare for re-admission of these topics to the NCE.

g. What references will be used for the Professional Issues questions?

The references for Professional Issues are currently being evaluated. The finalized bibliography for the NCE will be determined by April of 2017. Program directors will be notified by that time. Until that time, educators are encouraged to review the current bibliography listed on our website for subject matter related to this new topic.

h. Address the issue from several Program Administrators who "used the current list of drugs" for their curriculum.

i. Limitations of an exhaustive list

The "laundry list" of drugs on previous versions of the outline tended to create a false impression that only those drugs would appear on the examination. The intent of the outline was never to be an exhaustive enumeration of all the drugs which are referenced on the examination. The drug classifications on the next iteration of the outline is a more inclusive accurate representation of the knowledge required for the NCE. Related to this point, more detailed outlines tend to encourage "teaching to the test," which narrows the curriculum and runs counter to the goals of comprehensive education. In addition, it was interpreted by some that the long list of drugs was overwhelming preparing for the exam. Finally, referring to classifications rather than specific drugs should prevent the need to constantly revise the outline. We know drugs go on and come off the market, while drug classifications tend to be more stable..

ii. Feedback from the survey supporting this change

The generalized statements were endorsed on the Professional Practice Analysis survey.

3. Standard Setting

a. How will we find out the results of the NCE standard setting?

The results of the NCE Standard Setting will be communicated to educators through the newsletter and materials posted on the NBCRNA website.

b. When would a new passing standard go into effect?

The new passing standard for NCE is tentatively scheduled to go into effect in Fall of 2018.

4. NCE and SEE References

a. What is the NBCRNA policy on the use of drugs no longer in general

use?

While there is no official policy on using items that reference drugs which are no longer in general use on an exam, NBCRNA takes the utmost care in ensuring that all exam content is valid and reflective of the content outline before an exam is published. Confirmation and consensus among the subcommittee members is first needed to determine if a drug is no longer used. NBCRNA then follows item bank best practices to search the item bank for the specific drug. Review and action is then taken by the subcommittee to either archive or revise the item. In some limited cases, an item referring to an obsolete drug may still be retained if the drug features pharmacological properties which are clinically relevant.

b. Who decides if a drug is or not used on the tests?

In addition to the results of the Professional Practice Analysis, we rely on our subject matter experts that compose our subcommittees to determine the relevance of content on our examinations. Our subcommittees are comprised of CRNAs with a wide range of experience from a variety of healthcare settings in an effort to represent the anesthesia community.

c. If a drug is still listed in the NCBRNA reference books will it be on the exam?

While it is possible that a drug listed in an NBCRNA reference book will be on an exam, if the drug is no longer in use, NBCRNA will act to either archive or revise the item. The exam forms and items go through several rounds of subject matter expert review before being published to ensure accuracy and relevance of the content.

d. Since textbooks lag behind in information related to the most recent drugs – how does NBCRNA determine whether to include it on the test?

NBCRNA relies on the content outline and the consensus of the members of the examination committee to determine the relevance of a certain drug. All questions in the NBCRNA must be referenced using the texts listed on the NBCRNA website. This reference list is reviewed on an annual basis. In addition, the examination committee members are able to discern from item statistics the appropriateness of the item.

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