

Your CRNA Newsletter - December 2018

95% Meet Performance Standard on CPC Assessment Beta Research Study

NBCRNA Concludes Innovative Research Study on Testing Conditions



The NBCRNA has completed an innovative research study on its computer-based Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA), evaluating testing performance in six varied testing conditions. Results were equated to ensure fairness across conditions. The percentage of study participants that met the performance standard was 95%, indicating preparedness and mastery of the knowledge determined necessary for practice in nurse anesthesia. The Modified Angoff and Hofstee Methods, both widely used standard-setting approaches in credentialing, were used by the panel of practicing CRNAs to determine the performance standard.

“We would expect this high rate (95% of all examinees met the standard) since what we are measuring—the core domains of anesthesia practice—are central to every nurse anesthesia practice, no matter the setting,” said 2018-2019 NBCRNA President Mary Wojnakowski, PhD, CRNA.

It is important to note that:

- This first CPC Assessment (CPCA), a component of the CPC Program, which can be taken as early as 2020, is not a passing standard exam and no CRNA will lose their certification regardless of performance. The first CPCA is instead a performance standard (not passing standard) assessment, which will simply indicate any area(s) where targeted education can be directed to strengthen that area(s). Additional continuing education will need to be taken in any area where the performance standard is not met on the assessment.
- The CPCA is not the National Certification Exam (NCE) (“the boards”). We know the knowledge required of an experienced practitioner is different from the knowledge that is required of a new practitioner.

The NBCRNA launched the Continued Professional Certification Assessment (CPCA) Beta Research Study to examine the use of various testing conditions with a goal to evaluate fair and reliable options for administration of the CPCA component. The move towards an evidenced-based certification maintenance program recognizes that technology and assessment methods evolve over time, which prompted this research.

Launched this past fall, the research study included 1,500 CRNAs. The participants were randomly selected to participate in the study, taking the 150-question, four-hour CPCA in one of the six assigned testing conditions including with and without resources, and at a

testing center versus live, remote proctoring. The research study assessed the testing environments to determine how each may help achieve the goals of the CPC Program in a way that is practical for all CRNAs.

Score reports for study participants will be released in mid-December 2018. Based on the findings from this study and other sources and information, future testing conditions will be determined in early 2019. Additional information on this innovative study will be published in 2019.

Timing: The first CPCA will be taken in the second 4-year CPC cycle. It can be taken as early as 2020, but will need to be taken by 2024/2025, depending on your CPC cycle. (Find your personalized CPC path using the [CPC Calculator](#). This will be a performance standard assessment only, not a passing standard assessment, and no CRNA will lose their certification. Rather, CRNAs will need to take targeted education in the area(s) where the performance standard was not met. The NBCRNA is pleased to report that 95% of all beta study examinees met the performance standard.

“By recognizing and supporting lifelong learning, the CPC Program is designed to continue the CRNA’s ongoing track record of excellence as anesthesia providers and help ensure we continue to provide the highest standard of care for our patients,” said Dr. Wojnakowski.

Press Release

View the NBCRNA [Press Release](#) and find out more about the [Standard Setting Methods](#).

Find out more ...

Find out more about the study on the [CPC Assessment Research Study](#) page on the NBCRNA website.

Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM) Certification: 2019 Application and Testing Windows

The NBCRNA has announced the application and test dates for the 2019 Nonsurgical Pain Management (NSPM-C) credential. Forty-one CRNAs currently hold the NSPM-C, 50% of which were achieved during Fiscal Year 2018.

This NBCRNA subspecialty certification measures the knowledge, skills and abilities of CRNAs for practice in the NSPM field. If much of your work is in nonsurgical pain management (NSPM), consider pursuing the NSPM credential.

Nurse anesthetists who are currently certified by the NBCRNA and meet other specified criteria are eligible to apply for NSPM certification. If you are planning to take the NSPM Examination, contact NBCRNA at NSPM@nbcna.com or (855) 285-4658.

Find out more information, including the criteria, on the [NSPM page](#) on the NBCRNA website.

Applications for Exam Accepted	Test Dates
4/8/19 - 5/3/19	6/10/19 - 6/24/19
9/23/19 - 10/18/19	11/25/19 - 12/9/19

CPC Program: 2-year Check-in

The 2-year Check-in window for most CRNAs who recertified or initially certified in 2017 will open in early April 2019. This is your next step in the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program. The 2-year Check-in is the mid-point requirement of the 4-year CPC Program cycle and is a simple, online process.



The NBCRNA will notify you by email when you are due to Check-in. Watch your inbox for more information or find out more about the 2-year Check-in [here](#).

Get Your Personalized CPC Program Plan with the CPC Calculator

Find out the date of your 2-year Check-in and your personalized CPC Program timeline with the [CPC Calculator](#).

[CPC Program Calculator](#)

New CPC Practice Version Now Available: CPCA Practice II

Gain Insights and Class A Credit

To continue to promote lifelong learning, the NBCRNA launched the second online, interactive practice assessment, CPCA Practice II. CPCA Practice I and II can be taken at any time and CRNAs can earn up to two Class A credits per assessment (four Class A credits total). Each 40-question assessment will help identify knowledge gaps, provide personalized feedback reports and access to the full question bank, complete with rationales.



You can also take a test drive: Become familiar with the test format and experience by taking the free Quick20. It provides instant answer feedback, but no rationale or overall report. It is not eligible for Class A credit, but does provide a sample of the online exam experience and question types.

Find out more about the [CPCA Practice](#).

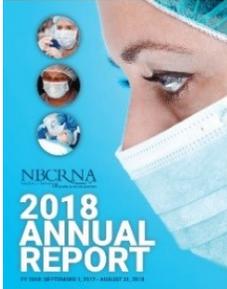
Happy Holidays!



As 2018 winds down, we want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellence. We look forward to welcoming 2019 with you and continuing to support the CRNA profession and all that you do.

Watch a recap of this year's NBCRNA activities [here](#).

Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report Available



The **Annual Report** is now available on the NBCRNA website with information and highlights from FY 2018.



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