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President's Message

Dear Fellow Nurse Anesthetists:

In 2008, the NBCRNA launched an effort to modernize the existing recertification program, which has existed largely unchanged for 40 years. A recertification task force conducted an extensive three-year review process, consisting of a benchmarking study, practice analysis, research of recertification trends and focus groups conducted at AANA meetings. The NBCRNA reviewed the task force's conclusions in 2011 and opened the recommendations to your comments. Thousands of phone calls, emails, blog posts and survey responses shaped the proposed guidelines for the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program.

The CPC Program embraces current standards and practices for professional certification and incorporates the maintenance of competence and lifelong learning concepts that are the basis for other health care professionals' recertification programs. In adopting the CPC Program, the NBCRNA worked hard to address concerns expressed by long-practicing nurse anesthetists, establishing requirements that respect both their years of practice and career expectations, and carefully considered the potential cost and demands on time. We have continued to observe that the principles of the CPC align with the future of professional certification, particularly in the healthcare industry. The Institute for Credentialing Excellence recently invited the NBCRNA to present a webinar on the CPC Program, for the benefit of other professions looking to update their practices and standards.

This special edition of our e-newsletter is dedicated to sharing the latest developments regarding the CPC Program. The NBCRNA has made a concerted effort to keep nurse anesthetists informed and engaged in the program's development. We hosted a CPC presentation and feedback session at the 2013 AANA Annual Meeting, and have since launched a series of webinars, open to all nurse anesthetists, which allow participants to learn more about the CPC and ask questions in real time.

The CPC Program's development is being led by a CPC Committee, which includes four subcommittees comprised of volunteers who are practicing nurse anesthetists. I commend and thank our committee chair, Steve Wooden, and all of our volunteer members for generously contributing their time and expertise.

Last month, the committee presented its initial recommendations to the NBCRNA Board of Directors. What follows are the recommendations accepted by the board and which are now open for public comment. None of the CPC details will be officially finalized until after the nurse anesthetist community has had the opportunity to provide feedback.

We hope you take a moment to review the progress made on the CPC Program. The NBCRNA has presented these recommendations to the AANA Board of Directors for their input. We will distribute an electronic survey to all certificants on October 18, allowing you to weigh in on the proposed recommendations. The NBCRNA also has three upcoming CPC webinars, which are free of charge and qualify for CE credits. Visit

NBCRNA.com to learn more and register.

Sincerely,



Charles Vacchiano, PhD, CRNA, NBCRNA President

CPC Program Update

The CPC Program continues to develop, led by four subcommittees composed primarily of clinical practitioner CRNAs from across the country. Following the initial rollout and public comment period in 2011, nurse anesthetists provided abundant feedback which helped to guide the refinement and architecture of the program. With a good deal of additional progress completed to date, the NBCRNA is again providing an interim report of progress and asking for feedback from stakeholders on proposed elements that are part of the evolving development of the program.

The basic requirements of the CPC Program are:

- 4-year recertification cycle.
- 15 continuing education units per year which include end-of-activity assessment.
- 10 professional activity units per year ("PAU" - educational or professional development activities which do not require prior approval, or post-assessment. Traditional CE credits may be used in lieu of PAU credits).
- Four core competency modules per cycle (average 1 per year). The modules are computer-based learning activities specifically in the core competency areas for nurse anesthesia practice. Competency module credits count toward the program assessed CE requirement.
- Recertification examination based on core clinical competencies of nurse anesthesia practice every other cycle (i.e. every 8 years), with the first 8-year exam serving as a diagnostic tool (i.e. not pass/fail).

Over the past year the CPC subcommittees have investigated various additional details and procedures which may become part of the CPC Program. What follows is a brief synopsis of the committees' recommendations.

[Click here for a synopsis of additional details about the committee's recommendations.](#)