



NEWS Winter 2008

In this issue...

NCC New Website

President's Message

New NCC Leadership and Staff

Self Assessment Modules

News on Perinatal Safety

News on Continuing Competency

Advanced Practice Paper Endorsement

Neonatal Pediatric Exam Update

New Credentials Recap

expertise
 quality
 excellence
 dedication
 commitment
 role model
 advocacy
 leadership
 innovation



www.nccwebsite.org

NCC's New Website

The new NCC website debuts this month and we have a new domain name. We invite you to come and visit to see all the new features. Please place the link below in your browser window for access. Since it is a new site, it is not on all of the search engines yet so accessing it by clicking on the link below or placing the link in your browser window is your best bet for access.

The new NCC website www.nccwebsite.org has many new features and improved functionality.

- You will need your NCC ID# to register
- You can get it from the site if you don't have it
- Failure to register will limit your access to your information and ability to file applications or earn discounts on NCC self assessment modules
- The only way the site initially knows that you are NCC credentialed is through your NCC ID #
- Once you register, you will use your own password to access your information and the website's features
- Once registered, the site is personalized to you.
- Enhanced security - As part of registering, you will create your own personal security password which will allow you to log-in to the website each time. For the first log in, you will need your NCC ID# for access. After that time, you will use your self developed password.
- Customized screens – Once you log-in, any feature you utilize, for example, maintenance or self assessment, the site will automatically enter your contact information. Features such as maintenance will show only your information so you can't select a wrong form or select a wrong

fee.

- Error entry protection - Alerts built into the system will tell you if you missed entering information.
- Email confirmations – You will receive email confirmation for any activity or purchase you complete on line.
- Your Own Personal File - Any activity you perform on the site will become part of your own personal file. You will be able to generate a receipt, download your maintenance card, self assessment certificate, maintenance application or self assessment order.
- Self Assessment Orders Purchases in NCC's OLD Website

If you ordered self assessment modules using the old website, you must access it from the old website or from the emails you received. The old NCC website still lives (www.nccnet.org). For those who have open online self assessment order(s), the online testing center will continue to be available to you to access either your module or download your certificate of completion. You will also be able to access the new website from the old NCC website. No previous orders open or completed will appear on the new site.

Brand New Features

- Online application for computer core certification tests – (NP and EFM exams will be coming soon).
- Improved Hospital Discount System for institutions ordering multi-paks of self assessment modules for employees or other constituents.

**COME VISIT THE NEW NCC WEBSITE TODAY
FOR AN NEW ONLINE EXPERIENCE!**



President's Message *Suzanne L. Reiter, WHNP-BC, MM, MSN, SANE-A*



Suzy Reiter

During my first year as President of NCC, I am acutely aware how important it is for certifying organizations to stay on top of changes that may affect our constituents – YOU! If you hold certification from NCC, it is crucial for you to keep us informed of your contact information and to look at our website (NEW!) from time to time. Not only can you look up your personal information regarding your certification (which is secure) but you can also download materials and get fast links to other organizations that may affect your practice

Congratulations to over 78,000 health care professionals that NCC has awarded certification or certificates of added qualification! There are many opportunities if you would like to participate! We look for volunteers to pretest our exams, write questions, and help with module development and review. This is a way to get involved as well as build expertise!

This newsletter will fill you in on many NCC happenings, but I want to focus on a few:

- It was my pleasure to represent NCC at the APRN Stakeholders meeting at the ANA Headquarters regarding the APRN Consensus Paper this year. This document will have considerable influence on APRN licensure, accreditation, certification, and education (LACE). The Board of NCC has endorsed this document and I encourage all APRNs to be familiar with it. There now is discussion nationally among nursing

organizations to develop a new group for LACE. On your behalf, NCC is monitoring issues that may affect certification in the future.

- NCC is in the process of developing a new exam for 2009. This exam will be for professionals involved with Pediatric and Neonatal Transport. Stay tuned and be sure to tell your colleagues about this.
- The competency project for the WHNP group was an incredibly proactive and innovative undertaking. At almost every meeting I attend there is a buzz about how to assure that professionals are up to date and competent to continue to practice! There are many professionals who must retest to remain certified. NCC is in the process of looking at some alternatives. If you have ideas, please feel free to email me at nccpresident@nccnet.org.

I am proud and honored to be the President of NCC. The organization is often the “voice of reason” in discussions about practice and certification. As we move into the future, know that you are certified (or hopefully about to be) by an organization which is thought to be a leader, proactive and truly representative of its constituents.

My best to all of you,

Suzanne L. Reiter, WHNP-BC, MM, MSN, SANE-A
President

Former NCC President, Fran Byrd, Joins NCC Staff

It is our pleasure to announce that Fran Byrd, NNP-BC, MPH has joined the NCC staff as Director of Strategic Initiatives beginning in October 2008.

Fran served as NCC President from 2004-2007. Previously with Palmetto Health Children's Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina, she served as Administrative Director. Fran will also serve as NCC's first virtual employee as she will work from her home base in South Carolina.

Fran's new responsibilities with NCC will be focusing on you! Fran will work on expanding and diversifying

the NCC Self Assessment Program, exploring development of a virtual constituent library, coordinating new efforts in the areas of perinatal safety and continuing competency and implementing new ways to involve NCC volunteers in new and innovative ways. Fran also has a special affection for the new Neonatal Pediatric Transport examination as she worked many years in neonatal transport. She will be directly involved in content team activities for this new multi-disciplinary exam that will debut in 2009. Welcome aboard, Fran!

Perinatal Safety Initiatives

The National Certification Corporation (NCC) has been focusing attention on the issues and concerns of healthcare providers regarding patient safety and in particular, Perinatal Patient Safety, over the past several years. In order to remain involved and to determine the current needs surrounding this important aspect of care, NCC convened a Perinatal Safety Task Force in early 2008 composed of administrators and clinicians actively involved in the issues to begin looking at potential "next steps". From this meeting, the need to survey individuals with knowledge and daily interac-

tion with the issues evolved. If you have any interest in perinatal safety the following link will take you to a short survey regarding "Perinatal Patient Safety" and we would invite and encourage you to participate. The responses are anonymous; however, if you would like to receive additional information as any plans evolve or to recommend additional individuals to receive this survey, please complete the contact information question. Place the following link in your browser window.

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228JEBSYAMP>

NCC Endorses the Consensus Paper for Advanced Practice

NCC has endorsed the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education paper. An outgrowth of a multiyear collaboration between the APRN Consensus Process Work Group (of which NCC was a member) and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing APRN Advisory Committee, the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education document presents an APRN model rele-

vant to advanced practice educators, accreditors, certifiers and licensure bodies. The paper defines APRN practice relative to regulation, education accreditation and certification and is a road map for implementation of current advanced practice roles and provides guidelines for the introduction of new APRN roles. A copy of the paper is available on the NCC website.

<http://www.nccwebsite.org/NPConsensusPaper.aspx>

It's Official

New and Returning Directors will begin their terms starting in January 2009.

Listed below are those who were elected to the NCC Board of Directors. This includes an RNC Representative to the Nominating Committee. Thank you to all who participated in the 2008 election.

Caroline M. Hewitt, RN, WHNP-BC, ANP-BC
(Re-elected)

Nominee for Director, NCC Board of Directors

MSN, Massachusetts General Hospital Institute for Health Professions, 1999

BA, Skidmore College, 1991

Current Position

Clinician

Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic
Westchester County, NY

NCC Involvement

Director, NCC Board of Directors, 2006-2008

Member, Policy Review Committee

NCC Certification

Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner since 1999

Joyce Converse, RNC-OB, MS (Re-elected)

Nominee for RNC Representative to the Nominating Committee

MS, University of Wisconsin at Madison
BSN, University of Wisconsin at Madison
Nurse Clinician Program, University of
Wisconsin at Madison

Diploma of Nursing, St. Luke's School of Nursing,
Duluth, MN

Current Position

Senior Vice President, Soyring Consulting, 2004

NCC Involvement

Director, NCC Board of Directors -1999-2007

Secretary-Treasurer, NCC, 2004-2007

Member, Self Assessment Committee

Member, Nominating Committee

Member, EFM Content Team, 2005 -current

RNC Representative to NCC Nominating
Committee, 2007

NCC Certification

Inpatient Obstetric Nursing since 1987

The current Board of Directors is composed of 12 members including 10 nurses, one physician and one public member. A list of those currently serving can be found by clicking on the leadership hyperlink on the homepage of the website.

Neonatal Pediatric Transport Exam – It's Coming

NCC Neonatal Pediatric Transport Content Team has been working hard on the development of this new subspecialty multidisciplinary credentialing exam. Nurses, nurse practitioners, respiratory therapists, physicians and paramedics will be eligible to participate. This unique perspective differentiates the exam from other transport examinations that are currently available which focus primarily on adult populations. We would like to thank all who participated in the content validation study. Your input served as an invaluable resource to the Content Team. NCC also thanks the Content Team for all their dedication to this exam. Content team members are listed below:

Neonatal Pediatric Content Team Members

- Karen Kinlaw, RNC, Shands Jacksonville Medical Center, Florida
- Rose Linsler, RN, BSN, CCRN, Intermountain Healthcare Life Flight, Utah
- Sherry McCool, RRT, NPS, CFC, Children's Mercy Critical Care Transport, Missouri
- Susan Orlando, DNS, ARPN-NNP-C, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, Louisiana
- Patrick Small, NREMT-P, CCEMT-P, Children's Hospital at St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- Jan Romito, RNC, MSN, NNP, Pediatric Medical Group, Texas
- Judith Sherif, RN, CPN, BSN, MN, Children's Hospital, California
- Howard Stein, MD, Toledo Children's Hospital, Ohio

The Task Force meets to finalize the exam in January. We anticipate the exam's debut by mid-2009. Watch for updates and details on this new examination.

NCC Self Assessment Program –On the Go

Currently available modules are listed below: Those designated with “WB” are online web based modules. All others are hard copy modules that come to you in the mail.

Maternal newborn modules

- WB0508 Normal Newborn: Processes of Adaptation (10 hours)
- WB0808 Postpartum Maternal Complications (10 hours)

Obstetric modules

- WB0109 NCC Monograph: Applying NICHD Terminology (15 hours)
- 2A08 Intrapartum Fetal Assessment (15 hours)
- 2C08 Preeclampsia (15 hours)
- WB0708 Intrapartum Complications (10 hours)
- WB0908 Nursing Care During Obstetric Procedures (5 hours)
- 2A09 Perinatal Safety (15 hours)

Telephone nursing care module

- 6A08 Issues in Telephone Triage in Primary & Pediatric Care (15 hours)

Women's health care modules

- 1A09 Infertility (15 hours)
 - 1B09 Contraception (15 hours)
 - WB0209 Life After the Women's Health Initiative: Guiding Women Through the Menopause Transition (15 hours)
 - WB1508 Abnormal Uterine Bleeding (5 hours)
 - WB1608 Ectopic Pregnancy (5 hours)
 - WB0509 Nutrition During Pregnancy (10 hours)
 - WB0309 Sexually Transmitted Infections (5 hours)
- High risk neonatal modules
- 3B08 Respiratory Diseases and Complications (15 hours)
 - WB0308 Pharmacology in the Fetus & Newborn (5 hours)
 - WB0108 Newborn Respiratory Problems (5 hours)
 - WB0208 Necrotizing Enterocolitis (10 hours)
 - WB0408 Fetal and Neonatal Thermal Regulation (5 hours)
 - 3A09 Neonatal Pain Management (15 hours)
 - 3B09 Neonatal Gastrointestinal Disorders and Problems (15 hours)

Module Type	5 hours	10 Hours	15 hours
Hard Copy Modules	N/A	N/A	\$61.00 for NCC Certified \$81 for all others
Web-based online modules	\$12.00	\$24.00	\$36.00

Remember any NCC self assessment module meets the specialty hour requirement for maintenance regardless of specialty content. (applies only to those holding an RNC or NP NCC credential)

COMING SOON

HARD COPY

- Clinical Management Issues in the Postpartum Woman
- Late Preterm Infants
- Breastfeeding
- Labor Management
- The Complicated Pregnancy

- Health Promotion – Focus on Health Screening
- Neonatal Safety

WEB-BASED ON-LINE MODULES

- Radiology in the Intensive Care Unit
- The Renal System and Fluid and Electrolyte Homeostasis
- The Cardiovascular System
- Developmental Care
- Pelvic Pain and Dysmenorrhea
- Vulvovaginitis
- Urinary Tract Disorders

Annual Paper and Pencil Test Date Set

In 2009, the annual paper and pencil testing will be held on September 25, 2009. The application filing date will be July 10, 2008. All test sites will be by request (minimum of six individuals are needed to

establish a site) and this request must be made no later than June 5, 2009. New 2009 catalogs will be available by the end of year for download from the NCC website.

Continuing Competency Pilot Program

Earlier this year, we conducted a pilot testing program with a select group of WHNPs to explore continuing competency question of how do you know what each individual needs to update their knowledge and skills. By and large, now that is left up to the individual. From the consumer perspective, the present system does not always identify those practitioners who need specific direction to assure their continuing competency to perform their specified roles.

NCC initiated a pilot study that incorporated an assessment of knowledge strengths and weaknesses of individual RNCs. The testing portion of the pilot program has been completed and final analysis of data is currently being completed. This

final report will be reviewed by the NCC Board of Directors. This report will assist the NCC Board of Directors to determine whether an assessment of strengths and weakness should be incorporated into the maintenance process. Watch for further updates on the NCC website www.nccwebsite.org.

In the national continuing competency discussions, key components to any program were identified as routine periodic assessment, development and implementation of personal individual competency plans, providing documentation of continuing competency efforts and evaluation and demonstration of competence.

Just the Facts

- In 2007, **87%** of those due to maintain their NCC credential did!
- 7,449 individuals took a NCC certification or subspecialty exam in 2007 and the average pass rate was **81%**
- In 2008, **7,598** have already taken an NCC exam and **83%** have earned their NCC credential
- In 2007, **10,383** self assessment modules were sold, **5,145** were online modules
- To date, for 2008, **11,272** modules have been sold, **5,735** were online modules

Reminder on new NCC Credential Designations that went into effect in January 2008

Advanced Practice Certification Designation. Aligning with recent decisions of other national nursing certification organizations, NCC adopted a more universal credential to designate advanced practice that will make it more understandable to the public and to emphasize the specialty area of expertise. The previous credential was RNC. The new credentials will be:

Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner WHNP-BC

The WHNP will highlight the specialty and BC stands for Board Certified, a shorthand terminology that is commonly used to explain certification to the public.

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner NNP-BC

The NNP will highlight the specialty and BC stands for Board Certified, a shorthand terminology that is commonly used to explain certification to the public.

Core Certification Examinations - These examinations currently include those certified as RNCs in a nursing specialty area. The RNC designation will be retained but a specialty component will be added for each specialty certification as follows:

- Inpatient Obstetric Nursing **RNC-OB**
- Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing **RNC-NIC**
- Maternal Newborn Nursing **RNC-MNN**
- Low Risk Neonatal Nursing **RNC-LRN**
- Telephone Nursing Practice **RNC-TNP***
- Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Nursing **RNC-REIN***

- Ambulatory Women's Health Care Nursing **RNC-AWHC***
- High Risk Obstetric Nursing **RNC-HROB***

For those certified under the **ANA-MCH/NCC Joint Certification Program** from 1976-1979, the singular RNC* credential will remain as this certification covered core and subspecialty content in a wide variety of areas.

* No longer available

Certificates of Added Qualification

Previously no added designation was provided to those earning a certificate of added qualification. Based on input from those holding the certificate of added qualification and the increasing need for professionals to have a method to publicly demonstrate their added expertise, the Board has now designated the following credentials for certificate of added qualification as follows:

- Electronic Fetal Monitoring **C-EFM**
 - Menopause Clinician **C-MC***
 - Menopause Educator **C-ME***
 - Breastfeeding **C-BF***
 - Gynecologic Reproductive Health **C-GRH***
 - Obstetrics for Primary Care Providers **C-OB***
- *These exams are no longer offered

The new Neonatal Pediatric Transport certificate of added qualification will be designated as follows:
Neonatal Pediatric Transport **C-NPT**

NEW MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS COMING SOON... GET READY FOR CHANGES IN 2009

Starting in 2009, a new maintenance rule will go into effect requiring that all 45 contact hours used to maintain your core certification (RNC or NP) must relate to certification specialty area. In the maintenance catalog and the website, topics consistent with each certification specialty will be provided.

Contact Information

NCC Call Center :312-951-0207 weekdays (9 am – 4 pm)

Website www.nccwebsite.org

Email staff from the website, just click on contact us.

You will receive a response within 48 hours, weekdays.