Subspecialty Maintenance

2012 EFM MAINTENANCE

Electronic Fetal Monitoring

ncc The National Certification Corporation
Recognition, Value, Expertise...
It is what certification is all about!

ABOUT CERTIFICATION

What makes a credentialed health care provider different?
Essentially, we believe it is the willingness of the individual to be accountable for his/her knowledge and the willingness to take the risk of undergoing a third party review of their knowledge. Credentialed professionals make a difference to their patients and to their institutions. They are unique professionals that have made the commitment to life long learning, patient advocacy and professional practice.

Credentialing is more than an initial after your name... Through the certified NCC Maintenance Program you have the opportunity to continue your credentialed status. Your EFM certificate of added qualification validates your expertise and gives you tangible recognition of your commitment to your profession.

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Notices to Certificate Holders
NCC makes every effort to apprise individuals that their certificate of added qualification is coming due. NCC does this out of courtesy not as a matter of obligation. It is up to the credentialed individual to know when it is time to maintain. During the course of the year prior to the maintenance due date and based on information submitted by the credentialed individual, NCC makes an effort to alert those affected of their maintenance due

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SUBSPECIALTY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Certificates of Added Qualification must be maintained on an ongoing basis every three years by one of two ways: re-examination or continuing education.

NCC WEBSITE ACCOUNT
You have set up your account on the NCC website with your personal information. This includes your address, phone, email and NCC ID number.

LICENSURE:
You will need to provide current license number, licensing state or province and expiration date for your current/active practice licensure as applicable, in the U.S. or Canada.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
You have earned 15 hours of CE in electronic fetal monitoring within your current credentialed period.

OR...

RE-EXAMINATION
You must successfully pass the examination PRIOR to your current maintenance due date and during your current credentialed period.
CONTINUING EDUCATION MAINTENANCE

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR MAINTENANCE APPLICATION

1. What are the maintenance requirements?
   Determine your eligibility - see page 3

2. Submitting your application
   Submit your application online at the NCC website www.nccwebsite.org
   Applications can only be submitted online. You cannot submit an application by mail, telephone or fax. Payment can be made online by credit card or check and individual or group payments can be made.

3. When is your maintenance deadline?
   Your application must be submitted no later than 12 Midnight Central Time on your maintenance due date. Due dates for 2012 will be one of the following:
   - March 31, 2012
   - June 30, 2012
   - September 30, 2012
   - December 31, 2012
   You are not required to wait until your due date to submit your application. You can submit your application up to one year prior to your due date.

4. What information does the application require?
   To get prepared to complete the application - see the application check list on page 16 & 17. It is a handy listing of all the information you will need to supply.

5. Email confirmation of your application
   After you complete and submit your application, you will receive an email confirmation.

6. Notification of successful maintenance
   You will receive a notice through email or the mail when your certificate of added qualification maintenance has been approved. You can download your official documentation of your credential 24/7, free of charge from your account on the NCC website in either card or certificate format. NCC no longer issues maintenance cards and official certificate of added qualification documentation will reside in your account which is available on demand.

Maintain your certification
Learn more »
Submit application

It can take up to four weeks to approve an application.
ABOUT CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Time frame to earn CE
For individuals whose certificate of added qualification is due for maintenance in 2012, all applicable continuing education credit must be earned during your current three year period of credential as follows:

Due Date: Use credit earned during

- **March 31, 2012**: 4/1/09 to 3/31/12
- **June 30, 2012**: 7/1/09 to 6/30/12
- **September 30, 2012**: 10/1/09 to 9/30/12
- **December 31, 2012**: 1/1/10 to 12/31/12

Accrediting Agencies for Continuing Education Credit
Academic credit is accepted as is CME credit. For continuing education credit to be accepted for the purpose of maintenance, the continuing education activity must be accredited by one of the agencies below:

- NCC
- State boards of nursing
- State nursing associations
- Nursing, medical or health care organizations (this would include, for example, such organizations as AWHONN, NPWH, NANN, ACOG, AMA etc.)
- Colleges or universities
- For profit or not-for-profit continuing education organizations such as Contemporary Forums, Western Schools, Professional Education Consultants, Perifacts etc. provided that programs sponsored by such organizations have been accredited for continuing education.

Most of the for-profit organizations have achieved accreditation for their offering through a state board of nursing or health care organization. Review accreditation details in the registration brochure or other information you received when registering for the particular continuing education activity.

All continuing education programs must be accredited and provide evidence of such in the form of a certificate of completion issued to participants.

**Conversion Formulas for Hours of Continuing Education**

**Academic Credit**
(U.S. and Canadian institutions only)

- 1 quarter hour = 10 hours of continuing education
- 1 semester hour = 15 hours of continuing education

**Other**

- 1 CEU = 10 hours of continuing education
- 1 AMA Category 1 hour = 1 hour of continuing education
- 1 CME = 1 hour of continuing education
- CEARP = 1 hour of continuing education
- ACOG cognate = 1 hour of continuing education

For other designations, contact the CE provider for conversion translation.

**Listing Example**

**ACADEMIC CREDIT**

**Program /Activity name:** Course 301 NICHD Definitions and Classifications of the Newborn

**Date of program:** 9/30/11 (list the date you finished the program)

**Number of hours:** List in CE hours, see conversion formula

**Sponsor or accrediting agency/organization:** University of Chicago

Select the code that matches content of the course from the specialty list. Remember all content must be related to your certification specialty.
SPECIALTY CONTENT AND CODING
Your CE and NCC Coding Requirements

What is Specialty Content?
Specialty hours are those continuing education activities that relate to content tested on the certification and subspecialty examinations and patient populations related to a specific NCC certification or certificate of added qualification specialty.

Where is the information I need for the coding system?
NCC has an online coding portal for browsing content categories and assigning the proper maintenance code.

To access content coding tools:
• Visit www.nccwebsite.org
• Click “Learn More” in the purple “Maintain you certification” box
• Scroll down to Documenting CE & specialty codes
• Click “Is my CE acceptable?”
• Select Electronic Fetal Monitoring from the subspecialty list
• You may also review content areas and keywords on the next page
CONTENT AREAS & KEYWORDS

THE ELECTRONIC MONITORING EQUIPMENT
- Fetal heart rate monitoring
  - Internal
  - External
- Uterine monitoring
  - External
  - IUPC
- Equipment failure and troubleshooting
- Artifact Detection
- Patient Education

PHYSIOLOGY
- Uteroplacental
  - Uteroplacental circulation
  - Fetal circulation
  - Fetal heart rate regulation
- Uterine activity
  - Resting tone
  - Contractions
  - Frequency
  - Duration
  - Intensity
- Factors affecting fetal oxygenation
  - Uterine activity
  - Maternal factors
  - Anesthesia
  - Drugs (Therapeutic and Recreational)
  - Placental factors
  - Umbilical blood flow

PATTERN RECOGNITION, INTERPRETATION AND INTERVENTION
- Baseline heart rate
  - Bradycardia
  - Tachycardia
  - Variability
  - Sinusoidal
- Fetal heart rate patterns
  - Accelerations
  - Decelerations
  - Early
  - Variable
  - Late
  - Prolonged
  - Response to tachysystole
- Dysrhythmias and other variant patterns
  - Supraventricular tachycardia
  - Congenital heart block
  - Ectopic beats
- Common complications
  - Preterm labor
  - Hypertension
  - Gestational (PIH)
  - Preeclampsia - eclampsia
  - HELLP syndrome
  - Chronic
  - Postdates pregnancy
  - Diabetes (gestational, Type 1, Type 2)
  - Placental disorders
    (previa, abruptio)
  - Uterine rupture/scar dehiscence
  - Infections
  - Multiple gestation

ADJUNCT FETAL SURVEILLANCE METHODS
- Auscultation
- Fetal movement counting
- Nonstress testing
- Contraction stress testing
- Fetal acid base testing
- Biophysical profile
- Fetal acoustic stimulation

LEGAL ASPECTS OF ELECTRONIC FETAL MONITORING
- Documentation/charting
- Standard of Care and EFM Outcomes
- Chain of Command
- Legal Liability Issues

CE earned for maintenance of your EFM certificate of added qualification must be related to one of the following content listing areas.
MAINTENANCE BY RE-EXAMINATION

HOW TO MAINTAIN BY RE-EXAMINATION

What are the maintenance requirements?
You must meet current examination eligibility criteria, which may be different from when you were originally certified – see exam registration catalog.

STEP 2

Submitting your application
If you wish to maintain by re-examination, you must email NCC at info@nccwebsite.org of your intention at least 6 months prior to your maintenance due date. You will receive special instructions on how to submit your application for re-examination for maintenance.

When is your maintenance deadline?
You must file your intention to use re-examination for maintenance no later than 6 months prior to your maintenance due date. And you must successfully pass the examination PRIOR to your current maintenance due date and during your current period of certification. Due dates for 2012 will be one of the following:

- March 31, 2012
- June 30, 2012
- September 30, 2012
- December 31, 2012

It can take up to four weeks to approve your request for re-examination for maintenance.
FEES

Maintenance Fees
- All fees are nonrefundable except where otherwise noted
- Payments can be made by credit card (Visa, American Express and MasterCard only)
- Payments can be made by check: bank routing number and account number required
- For payments made by third parties, any refund reimbursement will be issued to the third party and not the applicants
- All payments must be in US funds
- NCC does not accept debit cards or split payments (1/2 check and 1/2 credit card)
- Maintenance fees can be submitted only online at the NCC website. Applications will not be accepted by mail, phone or fax.

Other Payment Related Fees

Returned Checks
A $25 fee will be assessed for any check or e-check returned for any reason. Remittance thereafter of all fees must be in the form of a money order or certified cashier’s check.

Credit Card Chargeback
A $25 fee will be assessed if a credit card payment is disputed for any reason. Remittance thereafter of all fees must be in the form of a money order or certified cashier’s check.

Credit Card Declines
A $25 fee will be assessed if a credit card is declined as the application will be deemed incomplete. In the event of a decline, NCC resubmits the information by a different person to insure the problem is not an entry error. NCC will not waive this $25 fee for any reason. The applicant will receive the credit card decline whether payment was by the individual or by a third party.

CONTINUING EDUCATION MAINTENANCE

The maintenance fee is $40.

RE-EXAMINATION MAINTENANCE

The maintenance fee is the current examination registration fee of $135 (or $100 for those holding other NCC credentials) for paper/pencil testing or $185 (or $150 for those holding other NCC credentials) for computer testing.

$10 INCOMPLETE APPLICATION FEE

All incomplete applications are subject to a re-processing fee (not refundable).
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Extending your Maintenance Due Date

If you cannot maintain by your maintenance due date or have not earned enough continuing education credits, you can request a one time, three month extension. This extends the time to file. It does NOT change your next maintenance due date. During this extension period, any request for verification of credentialed status will be reported as lapsed. If you do not file within the stated extension time, your certificate of added qualification will lapse. You can use continuing education earned in the extension period to maintain the extended credential. The cost to extend your certificate of added qualification is $30. If using CE earned during the extension period to maintain this cycle, this same CE cannot be used to maintain the next cycle.

You must submit your extension request online at the NCC website no later than midnight Central Standard time of your maintenance due date. An acknowledgement of the granting of the extension will be sent to you. Extension requests received after the maintenance due date will not be honored. Such individuals will need to reinstate in order to maintain their certificate of added qualification.

To submit an extension request:

• Visit www.nccwebsite.org
• Click “Learn More” in the purple “Maintain you certification” box
• Scroll down to What happens if I can’t maintain on time?
• Click “Extensions”
• Fill out the online Extension form and pay the fee

Don’t have enough CE to Maintain?

If you don’t have enough CE to maintain your NCC credential, the NCC self assessment program may be the right choice for you. The NCC Self Assessment Program is a home study program that provides continuing education through hard copy modules or online (web-based) modules. Modules can earn 5 to 15 hours of continuing education. There are topics that relate to all certification specialty or subspecialty areas.

For more information about Self Assessment modules:

• Visit www.nccwebsite.org
• Click “Browse modules” in the yellow “Continuing education modules” box
• Choose your specialty from the list
• Sort by code to see what offerings cover what core competency areas
• Or sort by type of self assessment to see what offerings are available in your preferred method of testing
Lapsed or Expired Certificate of Added Qualifications

Lapsed Certificate of Added Qualifications
Your credential will lapse (expire) if:

- you do not file the required application or extension request and/or fees by the designated maintenance due date.
- you choose to maintain by re-examination and do not successfully pass the exam.
- you do not earn the required hours of continuing education, participate in continuing education activities not accredited by agencies recognized by NCC
- you do not satisfactorily remediate an incomplete application within the requested deadline date.
- your practice license is not active.

Certification can be revoked if NCC determines any information on your maintenance application has been intentionally or unintentionally misrepresented.

The Reinstatement Program
For those who fail to maintain their certificate of added qualification by their maintenance due date, a reinstatement program is available. The reinstatement program allows certificate holders to come back into the system without reexamination. Certificate holders so affected must file a reinstatement application online via the NCC website (mail applications will not be accepted), and pay a $145 reinstatement fee.

Reinstatement applications must be submitted no later than 12 months of the original certification maintenance due date. All reinstatements must be submitted online at the NCC website.

If successfully reinstated, the next maintenance date remains unchanged from the original maintenance due date. All lapsed certificate holders will automatically be notified approximately 30 days after their certificate of added qualification lapses. If the completed reinstatement application is not received within the 12-month period following the original maintenance due date, the only way the certificate of added qualification can be regained is by re-examination. All current exam eligibility requirements in effect at the time will need to be met. This may be different from the time you originally took the subspecialty exam.

To submit a reinstatement request:
- Visit www.nccwebsite.org
- Click “Learn More” in the purple “Maintain your certification” box
- Scroll down to What happens if I can’t maintain on time?
- Click “Reinstatement of lapsed NCC credential”
- Fill out the online Reinstatement form and pay the fee

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice.
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Incomplete Application Processing

Incomplete applications are defined as:

- missing required information
- incorrect information
- inadequate fees (Returned Checks, Credit Card Declines or Credit Card Charge Backs)
- utilizing/listing CE outside your certificate of added qualification specialty
- demonstrating inadequate or non-applicable continuing education
- listing inadequate continuing education hours to meet maintenance requirements
- any reason resulting in an inability to determine the certificate holder’s eligibility

All incomplete applications are subject to a nonrefundable $10 re-processing fee.

Audits

NCC randomly selects for audit a percentage of certificate holders who are due to maintain their certificate of added qualification. All incomplete applications are automatically selected for audit. An audit requires the certificate holder to submit copies of the certificates of continuing education being used for the purposes of maintenance. The notice of audit may come with your notice that your certificate of added qualification is due or you may be subject to an audit after you have submitted your certificate of added qualification maintenance application. If selected for audit and you fail to provide continuing education certificates or fail to meet the deadline to submit additional documentation that would complete your application, your certificate of added qualification will lapse.

Multiple Certifications

If you are maintaining more than one NCC certification and/or a subspecialty certificate, you must submit a separate application and fee for each certification/certificate. There is a separate application for maintaining subspecialty certificates. If applicable, you may use the same continuing education credit for multiple certifications. If you plan to maintain via re-examination, you need to take and pass all examinations prior to your maintenance due date.

Biographical Questionnaire

To update your RNC or certified NP biographical profile:

- Visit www.nccwebsite.org
- Sign into your NCC account
- Click “Learn More” in the purple “Maintain you certification” box
- Scroll down to Maintenance submission
- Click “Complete your biographical data survey”

All policies and procedures are subject to change without notice.
GENERAL POLICIES

Credit Card Denials
In the event a credit card payment is declined, the credit card information is submitted a second time by a different individual to assure correct data entry. Notice of credit card denials are only issued after this process. NCC does not remit address or CV code information on credit card payment. If you receive a notice of credit card denial, you will be required to submit the $10 reprocessing fee. There will be no exceptions.

Nondiscrimination Policy
It is the policy of NCC that no individual shall be excluded from the opportunity to participate in the NCC Certification Maintenance Program on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.

NCCA Accreditation
NCC certification and subspecialty programs are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) through March 31, 2015.

Other Policies
- Any policy, requirement or fee is subject to change without notice.
- All fees submitted must be in US dollars and are non-refundable.
- Only American Express, Visa and MasterCard are accepted for credit card payment.
- NCC does not accept debit cards.
- NCC will not accept split payments (part credit card/part check payment)
- NCC is not responsible for lost, misdirected or damaged mail or failed online submission attempts
- It is the RNC’s or certified NP’s responsibility to maintain a current mailing address on file with NCC.
- Address or other contact information changes should be submitted to NCC via the NCC website.

CD-ROMS
Each year a CD-ROM of all NCC publications are sent those certified or credentialed by NCC.

Receipts
A receipt for your payment of the maintenance fee will automatically be provided with your notice that your maintenance has been successfully completed. If done online, you can download a receipt at any time from "your account” section of the website. You do not need to request a receipt of your payment separately. Request for duplicate receipts will incur a $10 fee.
GENERAL POLICIES

Replacement Maintenance Cards

NCC no longer issues maintenance cards. Official documentation of current credential will be able to be downloaded from the NCC website under “your account” section. You must be registered with the site to have access to the information. If a maintenance card is desired, one can be generated for the fee of $35 which include federal express shipping.

Appeals Procedure

Any request to waive any policy of the NCC Board of Directors regarding certification or certificate of added qualification maintenance must be received in writing within 60 days of the dispute. The correspondence should contain a detailed account as to why the NCC policy should be waived or the candidate’s status changed. Such requests are referred to the NCC Board of Directors via the Policy Review Committee. All decisions will be provided in writing. Cases in which consensus cannot be reached by the Policy Review Committee are referred to the full Board of Directors.

Verification of Your Credential

If you require a third party verification of your certificate of added qualification, you must process your request through the NCC website. Click on Request a Verification on the home page. You cannot request a verification until you have received your official results from NCC in writing. NCC cannot verify your credential until after you have achieved it.

There is a $30 charge for each request. Verifications are sent instantaneously via email to your designated party. Verifications include original date of certification, maintenance due date, certification specialty and NCC President’s signature and the NCC corporate seal. You will need an email address to use the process. Where available, NCC has listed on the website email addresses of the state boards of nursing who have provided them.
CHECKLIST FOR 2012 MAINTENANCE

Before you file your online maintenance application, look over the below check list and make sure that you have completed the necessary steps.

- **NCC WEBSITE ACCOUNT**
  You have set up your account on the NCC website with your personal information. This includes your address, phone, email and NCC ID number.

- **LICENSURE**
  Current license number, licensing state or province and expiration date for your current/active practice licensure as applicable, in the U.S. or Canada.

- **CONTINUING EDUCATION**
  You have earned 15 hours of CE in electronic fetal monitoring within your current credentialed period - see page 5. You have coded your CE with the appropriate specialty code.

- **APPLICATION AGREEMENT:**
  You must demonstrate your agreement to abide by NCC policies through a check off box procedure. By checking the designated box, this is deemed as equivalent to providing you signature. Applications cannot be submitted without the below agreement being stipulated.

  I have read the policies on this website and in the maintenance catalog and understand that I will be subject to them. To the best of my knowledge, I certify that all information contained in this application is complete and correct. I understand and agree that any knowingly false information provided by me or others may result in denial or revocation of my certification. I understand that my application may be subject to audit for verification of the information provided and I authorize NCC to make contact with individuals listed for this purpose.
CHECKLIST FOR 2012 MAINTENANCE

Use the listing below to help you keep track of your Continuing Education for your maintenance. You may also enter your CE into the online maintenance form as the CE is earned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Program</th>
<th>Program Name (be specific)</th>
<th>Specialty Category Code</th>
<th>Number of Specialty Hours</th>
<th>Sponsoring/Accrediting Organization</th>
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ABOUT NCC

NCC is a not-for-profit organization that has certified over 100,000 health care professionals in the women’s health, obstetric and neonatal nursing specialty areas. Established in 1975, NCC sponsors certification examinations and subspecialty exams for competency validation.

NCC’S PHILOSOPHY OF CERTIFICATION

Credentialing is an evaluative process that provides health care professionals in the obstetric, gynecologic, and neonatal nursing specialties the opportunity to demonstrate publicly what they know and to be recognized for the knowledge they possess. As a voluntary process, the NCC certification and subspecialty examinations are designed to test for special knowledge.

The NCC certification credential carries no licensing authority. The ability to practice is regulated by the state boards of nursing and while certification may be required in some states for advance practice nursing roles, NCC has no regulatory power to require states to recognize certification for this purpose. Practice and educational standards are reflected in the credentialing process but the responsibility for development of such standards rests with the professional nursing specialty organizations and the nursing education community.

NCC encourages individual nurses to seek out information about how certification relates to state licensure requirements, program accreditation of the educational institutions attended, the educational and practice standards of the national nursing specialty organizations and employment expectations in their community. Contact with state boards of nursing, universities and colleges, professional specialty nursing organizations and individual employers for specific requirements is highly recommended.