



National Certification Corporation

The NCC
Item Writer Workshops Return

The opportunity for a great learning experience



2003 represents the first year since 1995 that NCC has sponsored national item writer workshops. The workshops are designed to train RNCs and NCC certificate holders to become item writers for the NCC examinations. This year the first three invitational workshops were held in Chicago for those certified in Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing, Low Risk Neonatal Nursing, Maternal Newborn Nursing and Telephone Nursing Practice.

The focus of the workshops is to prepare RNCs to become item writers by teaching the technological aspects of item writing and review. But as anyone who has served as an item writer knows item writing is an art as well as a science. The integration of talent, expertise, commitment and group interaction dynamics all converge to yield viable test items. The workshops mimic the work of an actual Content Team and item writers must write, review and critique items as part of the workshop experience as well as participate in follow-up activities. Each workshop is followed up by a web conference where items developed by the workshop participants will be reviewed. These items will also be placed on a certification examination as pretest items and participants will get real feedback on the item performance of the questions they wrote.



*Top NIC
Left to Right: Angela Burd, Evelyn Stephenson, Susan Blackburn, Carolyn Oyen, Pamela Clark, Patricia Clifford and Lisa Baird.*

*Middle LRN/MN
Left to Right: Phyllis Lawlor Klean, Patsy Queen, Cassandra Olsen, Robin Laursen, Myna Laughlin, Fran Byrd, Janine Fontaine*

*Bottom TNP
Left to Right: Patricia Otterson, Sabrina Forest, Marlene Cross, Gail Howat, Julie Briggs, Margaret Dow and Eileen Delahanty*

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Where to begin?

What to say? How to finish?

All these questions have floated through my mind in the past few weeks as I have considered what to convey in my last message as NCC President. In December I will complete my fifth and final term and as I look back at what we have accomplished, I am indeed satisfied. Three new examinations are up and running, we have returned to computer based testing with (dare I say it) very few glitches, and our self assessment program continues to grow (soon to be available online) and thrive as we provide quality continuing education at affordable rates. Our website has transformed from an idea into a major source of communication and business. You can do virtually anything, except take an examination, by visiting www.nccnet.org. The list goes on. I could tell you in detail about the item writer workshops we are now offering or our new requirements for neonatal and women's health care nurse practitioner programs that will take effect in 2005. I could brag about our 86% recertification rate and our continued accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. I could tell you that NCC is the envy of certifying organizations because we have enjoyed the same executive director since our inception 27 years ago. A virtual kaleidoscope of ideas has flashed in my mind as I have pondered what to say. But through it all, two themes keep recurring, two leanings that I have decided to follow. The first relates to the nursing profession and the second to nursing professionals.



In the last five years I have had the opportunity to gain first hand information about nursing education, especially as it relates to advanced practice. Because NCC offers two NP certification examinations, we are invited to participate nationally with all the groups that come together to discuss issues related to this. As I have represented NCC at these various meetings, I have learned some of the inner workings of how advanced practice is regulated and I must tell you, I am apprehensive about the future of nursing.

It appears that the economics of education have increasingly become the dominant aspect of advanced practice education. The concept of consumer driven education, offering anything to anybody and the end product will be an advanced practice nurse, sometimes sacrifices common sense in regard to what

advanced education provides the individual and more importantly how their training will impact their future patients. Professional role competencies, national standards of education and certification requirements are often times seen as barriers rather than safeguards. At the end of the day, students are graduated but how well they are prepared to function in these roles, I am not always certain. I am sure that the financial pressures in academic institutions are intense and I claim no firsthand knowledge or experience in how much that molds education decisions. But I must ask, "Who benefits?" The institutions? The students? The patients? The nursing profession? My fear is that the answer to the question is, "Nobody." Perhaps I am overly pessimistic or harsh but it worries me. Never before did I have the opportunity to view the big picture in nursing but since NCC provided me that vantage point, the view I see is troubling. In our effort to become all things to all people, will we cease to be well-educated, well-recognized and well-respected professionals? I hope not.

Long ago, my parents instilled in me the desire, virtually the obligation, to finish strong. To that end, let me turn from the nursing profession to nursing professionals. I cannot begin to adequately express the admiration I have for the multitude of nurses I have met and worked with in the last five years. Nurses from across the country, in a variety of roles, from demographically diverse areas have indelibly impressed me. They volunteer with vision, dedication, tenacity and passion. They stand up for what they believe and for what is right. They are thoughtful in their decision-making and deeply committed to NCC. These are the men and women who have served with me on the NCC Board of Directors and on the NCC Content Teams. They represent the very best in nursing and our organization thrives because they are willing to share their time and talent. To me, that is the mark of a true professional.

So, it is finished, both my message and my tenure. My involvement with NCC has been the highlight of my professional career. To serve this excellent organization has been a privilege beyond description, a rare opportunity and a pleasure. I wish the same thing for you in your professional life. If you are ever asked to serve, just say yes!

Emily C. Bennett

Online Education ^{here!} is coming!

As we finalize copy for this newsletter, we are entering self assessment examinations for upload to the NCC website. We don't know the exact start date, but check out the NCC's homepage (www.nccnet.org) to check availability for online education.

You will now have another way to earn continuing education to maintain your NCC certification or certificate of added qualification. Online education is coming to NCC.

How It Works

There will be a hyperlink on the NCC website home page for online education. Click on the hyperlink and you will be able to select the modules you wish to purchase. Once purchased, you will be given a password to access the module source material to read from the screen or download. Upon completion of review of materials, you will be able to access via password an online test. Results and a certificate of completion will be awarded immediately upon successful completion. If you fail to successfully complete the test the first time, you will have a second opportunity to retake the test at no additional cost.

Interesting Topics

The topics for the debut of NCC online education is as follows:

Obstetric Modules

- Comfort and Pain Management in Labor and Delivery
- Labor Support
Source material is from *Childbirth Education, Practice, Research and Theory*, Nichols, et. al., W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 2000.

Neonatal Modules

- Neonatal Pain Management
- Pharmacology, Principles of Pharmacokinetics
Source Material, *Handbook of Neonatal Intensive Care*, Merenstein, et. al., Mosby, St. Louis, 2002.
- Perinatal Developmental Pharmacology
Source Material, *Neonatal Perinatal Medicine, Diseases of the Fetus and Infant*, Fanaroff, et. al., Mosby, St. Louis, 2002.

Dermatologic Manifestations

- Viral Infection
- Bacterial Infection
- Fungal Infection
Source Material, *Textbook of Neonatal Dermatology*, Eichenfield, et. al., W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 2001.

Women's Health Modules

- Infertility
Source Material, *Reproductive Endocrinology: Physiology, Pathophysiology and Clinical Management*, Yen, et. al., W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1999.
- Osteoporosis
Source Material, *NCC Monograph on Osteoporosis*, Carroll, et. al. NCC, Chicago, 2003.

And Affordable Too!

Each module will earn 5 contact hours of continuing education through the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP 12200. The cost for each module will be \$12! All credit earned through the NCC Online Self Assessment Program can be used to qualify for discount fees on your maintenance fees as follows.

Discounted Fees For Using Self Assessment Modules

If you earn 15 contact hours through the NCC Self Assessment program, the fee is \$70.

If you earn 30 contact hours through the NCC Self Assessment program, the fee is \$60.

If you earn 45 contact hours through the NCC Self Assessment program, the fee is \$50.

You will be able to mix and match both hard copy and online modules to meet the discount price!

All of these modules will be available until December 15, 2004.

Watch for a reminder mailing in your mailbox or inbox for when NCC Online Education starts!

Additions to the Self Assessment Standard Series Continue

In November 2003, look for the debut of three additional modules to the current Standard Series modules for the NCC Self Assessment. New modules to be introduced will include

- Issues in Intrapartum Nursing
- Newborn Assessment - Part 2
- Contraception

Order form is on page 15.

These three modules are in the process of finalization. Others are under development but don't have a debut date at this time. They include Aftermath from WHI Study, and several book series relating to Telephone Nursing, Neonatal Respiratory Diseases, Electronic Fetal Monitoring and Pharmacology.

Changes for NCC Certification and Subspecialty Exam Program to Occur in 2004

Changes to the Paper/Pencil Test Administrations will be initiated in 2004

WE NEED YOUR HELP

In 2003, NCC returned to offering the NCC examinations via computer. However, we continued to offer the examination via paper/pencil format on one annual testing date. In 2003, NCC had to cancel many small city test sites due to insufficient numbers. In addition, many of the test sites utilized were special sites. A special site is where an individual or institution requests to sponsor a site. They are responsible for acquiring the facility and providing proctors.

In 2004, NCC will limit NCC sponsored test sites to 15 cities across the nation in major metropolitan centers; however, NCC is committed to continuing to offer paper and pencil testing at special sites. We believe that allowing institutions or individuals the opportunity to sponsor their own test site promotes certification.

So this is where we need your help. We would like to promote the special site concept to as many institutions as possible. But we need to send the information to the right person. We are soliciting for acquisition of the name and addresses of your nurse manager for labor and delivery, maternal newborn units, neonatal intensive care units, educational institutions or wherever an interest in certification might be. They would be contacted by mail with an informational brochure and general information about available certification examinations.

The basic components of establishing a special site are listed below.

A special NCC test site can be sponsored if the following requirements can be met

- Special sites must be approved by NCC and requests to become a special site must be submitted by April 30, 2004
- A minimum of six (6) persons is required to establish a special site
- Any NCC examination counts toward meeting the person minimum including core, subspecialty or pretest exams
- Special sites must provide a testing facility at no charge to NCC (Site must accommodate seating each test taker every other seat)
- Special sites must provide proctors at no charge to NCC, minimum of two per site and one additional proctor for each additional 25 test takers
- Six or more examination applications must be sent to NCC by stated deadlines
- Applications must be submitted as a group with individual exam fee payments (checks or credit card). Group payments will not be accepted
- All policies and deadlines apply to special site candidates. Incomplete applications will be returned and will be subject to late fees if applicable
- If special site applications are postmarked in the late filing period, the \$50 late application must be submitted

The paper and pencil test administration will be held on August 6th in 2004. Deadline for filing application to take the test will be June 4th. The late filing period will be June 5th through June 18th. Help us promote certification through establishment of a special test site. Complete the form on this page about who NCC can contact about Special Test Site Testing of NCC examinations or you can email the information to bburns@nccnet.org.

National Certification Corporation/Attn: ICP
P.O. Box 11082
Chicago, IL 60611-0082

Yes, I'd like to help promote certification. Send information on setting up a special testing site to:

Name

Title

Institution

Address

City State Zip

e-mail address



NCC salutes those institutions that promoted certification in 2003 by establishing a special site for the NCC examinations

Thank you for the following individuals and institutions who sponsored a special test site in 2003.

ALLENTOWN, PA - La Dene M. Gross, RN, MSed. (Lehigh Valley Hospital)

AUSTIN, TX - Phoebe Kelly, RNC (St. David's Medical Center)

AVIANO, ITALY - Capt. Sara Goodnight & Capt. Tracy Sapp. (Aviano AFB, Italy)

BARTLESVILLE, OK - Juli Merciez, RNC, BSN (Jane Phillips Medical Center)

CHARLOTTE, NC - Mary Lou Bowers, MSN, RNC (Carolina's Medical Center)

CLINTON, MD - Mary Bair, RNC, BSN (Southern Maryland Hospital)

COLUMBUS, OH - Jane Fischer, RN (OSU Outpatient Services & Kenny Road)

CONCORD, NC - Gayla Spears, RNC Program Manager (Northeast Medical Center)

DAVENPORT, IA - Joan McCann, RNC (Genesis Medical Center)

FT. COLLINS, CO - Karen Moore, RNC (Poudre Valley Hospital)

GREENWICH, CT - Joanne M. Cox (Greenwich Hospital)

HAMILTON, NJ - Joy Rende, RNC (Robertwood Johnson Univ. Hospital at Hamilton)

HOUSTON, TX - Jennifer J. Nolte, RNC (Christus St. Joseph Hospital)

HOUSTON, TX - Arlene Miller, RNC (Southwest Memorial Hospital)

JOHNSON CITY, TN - Lisa Smithgall, RNC (Johnson City Medical Center)

KETCHIN, AK - Carol Murray, RN (KIC Tribal Health Clinic)

LANGHORNE, PA - Celeste Murphy, RN (St. Mary Medical Center)

LAWRENCEVILLE, GA - Pamela L. Earnhart, RN (Gwinnett Medical Center)

LOS ANGELES, CA - Eden Vergel De Dios, RN, BSN (White Memorial Center)

MANHASSET, NY - Joanne McDowl, RNC, MSN (North Shore Univ. Hospital)

MARIETTA, GA - Lettie J. Primeaux, RNC (Wellstar Kennestone Hospital)

MIAMI, FL - Nancy Burke, RNC (South Miami Hospital—education center)

MORRISTOWN, NJ - Angie Burd, RNC, CCNS, APN-C (Morristown Memorial Hospital)

MURFREESBORO, TN - Rhonda Todd, RNC (Middle TN Medical Center)

NAPLES, ITALY - Linda M. Shinn, RNC (Naval Hospital-Naples, Italy)

OAK LAWN, IL - Phyllis Lawlor-Klean, RNC (Advocate Christ Medical Center)

PARAMUS, NJ - Heidi Brenner (The Valley Hospital-The Kraft Center)

PIKEVILLE, KY - Ethel Day (Pikeville Methodist Hospital)

RED BANK, NJ - Laura Celia (Riverview Medical Center)

WILLOWGROVE, PA - Carol Okupniak, RNC, BSN (Abington School of Nursing)

SOUTH BEND, IN - Mary Bell, RNC (Memorial Hospital of South Bend)

WINSTON SALEM, NC - Leslie Robbins & Karen Wilkins (Forsyth Medical Center)

Your commitment to quality health care through certification deserves to be recognized. Each institution will receive a Certificate of Merit in recognition of their support and value of certification.

2003 election

vote online www.nccnet.org

Candidates

The following pages provide the information on those who have been nominated to serve on the NCC Board of Directors and Nominating Committee.

Directors are elected for a three-year term with a maximum service of six years. Of the four nominees, all will be new to the Board. We say a fond farewell to Emily "Mimi" Bennett, RNC, MSN, Richmond, Virginia, Tom Buckley, RNC, MSN, Charlottesville, VA, and Nancy Jo Reedy, CNM, MPH, Arlington, Texas, who have served their maximum terms.

The Nominating Committee has the responsibility of soliciting RNC interest in serving on the board and developing the slate of directors for election by the RNC constituency.

The current Board of Directors is composed of 11 members, including one public member.

Please take a moment to review the candidate information. Record your vote on the ballot in this newsletter or vote online! Go to the NCC website at www.nccnet.org and select the link on the homepage.

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS

Mary Brucker, CNM, DNSc

Director, Parkland School of Nurse Midwifery
Dallas, TX

BSN, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
MSN, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Nurse Midwifery, University of Mississippi
DNSc, Rush University, Chicago, IL
Certified as nurse midwife



Candidate Statement

I am delighted to be considered to be a member of the Board. I offer to you a willingness to work on certification issues. In the past, I have been involved with certification for nurse midwives and currently serve on the State of Texas advisory committee for Advanced Practice Nursing. The latter often involves issues concerning certification.

election 2003

Past NCC
Involvement

Self Assessment
Program Consultant
Review

Pharmacology
Modules

2003 Election

Candidates



CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS

Nancy A. Carroll, RNC, BSN, MS, WHNP

Nurse Practitioner

Coastal Women's Healthcare, Scarborough, ME

BSN, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME

MSN, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner,

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Certified in Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

Certified as Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner

Past NCC
Involvement

Item Writer for NCC
Reproductive
Endocrinology/
Infertility Exam and
Women's Health
Nurse Practitioner
Exam

Member, Self
Assessment
Committee

Candidate Statement

Thank you for considering me for the NCC Board of Directors. I have had the opportunity to volunteer in various capacities for NCC over the years and have always felt I received more than I gave. I am at a time in my life and career when I have the resources and support to serve on the Board, and I would consider it a great honor.

For me, NCC has always epitomized clinical excellence and high standards. Looking ahead, I would especially like to see NCC once again develop a certification for advanced knowledge in endocrinology and infertility nursing. I would be very grateful for the opportunity to serve my profession and fellow nurses as a member of the NCC Board.



Terry A. Cavaliere, RNC, MS, NP

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, NY

Clinical Assistant Professor

School of Nursing

State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY

Past NCC
Involvement

Member, Neonatal
Nurse Practitioner
Content Team

Certified as
Neonatal Nurse
Practitioner

Clinical Preceptor

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program

Columbia University, New York, NY

BS, Nursing, Hunter College, New York, NY

MS, Nursing University of California, San Francisco, CA

Certificate, Perinatal Nurse Clinician, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY

Candidate Statement

It is an honor to be considered for nomination to the NCC Board of Directors. I am an enthusiastic advocate of certification for nurses and I would work diligently to promote the goals of NCC. I am committed to upholding high standards of excellence for nursing practice. Membership on the Board would enable to me to fulfill this personal goal.

vote online www.nccnet.org

election 2003

7

ncc

2003 election

vote online www.nccnet.org

Candidates

Past NCC
Involvement
Member, Maternal
Newborn Test
Committee
Certified as a
Neonatal Nurse
Practitioner

CANDIDATE FOR RNC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Catherine Witt, RNC, MS, NNP

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
NNP Services of Colorado, Denver, CO

BSN, University of Colorado

I would be honored to serve as the RNC Representative to the Nominating Committee. NCC serves an important function by recognizing and honoring clinical knowledge and excellence in nursing care of women and families.

Certification in one's nursing specialty demonstrates a commitment to the profession of nursing and the body of nursing knowledge. This commitment by nurses is vital to the advancement of nursing and the care we give our patients. The future leadership of NCC ensures the ongoing quality and excellence that the National Certification Corporation is known for. I would be pleased to contribute to the development of future leaders in our profession.

election 2003

Ballot

for Election of 2004 Directors and
RNC Representative to the Nominating Committee

For NCC Board of Directors:

Mary Brucker, CNM, DNSc
Nancy A. Carroll, RNC, BSN, MS, WHNP
Terry A. Cavaliere, RNC, MS, NP

For RNC Representative to
NCC Nominating Committee:
Catherine Witt, RNC, MS, NNP

- I approve of the 2003 Slate as presented
 I do not approve of the 2003 Slate as presented

Name

Member ID (SS#)

Signature

Date

RETURN BALLOT BY OCTOBER 24, 2003, to NCC Election, P.O. Box 11082, Chicago, IL 60611



did you know?

86% of those due to renew their certification or certificate of added qualification maintained their credential in 2002.

Nearly 1,000 individuals have signed up for the computer administered tests in 2003.

As an RNC or a holder of a certificate of added qualification, you know that testing can be anxiety producing and NCC has been getting many questions about the comparison between paper/pencil tests and computer administered tests. Please be our ambassador and share the Myths of Computer Testing with your colleagues who are contemplating becoming certified.

• **Extensive computer knowledge is needed**

Not so! If you can press a key on the keyboard or click the mouse, you have the requisite skill to take an NCC computer test.

A short tutorial is provided prior to each testing session and the time for the tutorial does not count toward the allotted time to take the test.

• **You cannot go back to your previous answers or re-review questions**

Again, not so! People are often confused about this. Without getting too technical, NCC tests are linear tests, meaning everyone gets the same questions to answer. Many nurses' previous experience with computer testing is when taking the NCLEX. The NCLEX is a computer adaptive test and each test is individually selected for each person.

• **Computer tests are harder**

For the third time, not so! Computer tests are developed in the same way as paper/pencil tests are. The only difference between the two is how they are administered. Pass/fail rates are similar and to date computer testing averages an 85% pass rate with individual tests running from 78% to 98%.

• **Computer tests can't be psychometrical because you get a pass/fail status right away**

All NCC tests are composed of proven, psychometrically sound items. The results that are received at the test sites are unofficial. To insure everything performs statistically appropriately, confirmation of the results is undertaken after the test and final results are provided to the candidate by NCC. To date, all test results have been the same and no candidate's score has changed.

In 2002, 3,453 nurses and other health care professionals took one of NCC's core or subspecialty examinations.

The overall pass rate for all examinations was **77%**

The pass rate for the core examinations was **88%**

The pass rate for the subspecialty exams was **74%**

211 RNCs participated in the pretest program.

2002 Exam Outcomes

Exam		2002 Pass Rates
WHNP	Women's Health Care NP	90%
INPT	Inpatient Obstetric Nursing	80%
NIC	Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing	80%
NNP	Neonatal Nurse Practitioner	79%
LRN	Low Risk Neonatal Nursing	65%
MN	Maternal Newborn Nursing	65%
TNP	Telephone Nursing Practitioner	98%
EFM	Electronic Fetal Monitoring	66%
BF	Breastfeeding	62%
MC	Menopause Clinician	77%
ME	Menopause Educator	90%
GR	Gynecologic Reproductive Health	62%



Order Form

Please send me the EFM Case Book II!

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- EFM Casebook I Book \$45
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Address (line 2) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

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Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date (month/year) _____

Printed Name of Cardholder _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Web orders: www.ccpnet.org
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 Mail orders: CCPR
 P.O. Box 118267
 Chicago, IL 60611-8267



The Center for Certification Preparation and Review

www.ccpnet.org

now on

CD-ROM

EFM Case Book II

Designed as a competency validation tool, EFM Case Book can...

- help prepare you to earn your certificate of added qualification in EFM from NCC
- be an orientation tool for your labor and delivery unit
- provide a competency validation exercise to demonstrate your knowledge

The Case Book provides a total of 40 clinical cases at the basic, intermediate and advanced levels.

For each case you will receive:

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- sample tracings • case outcomes

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be ready... be prepared ...be successful!

Orders without payment will be returned.

There will be no refunds for any CCPR products.

There will be a \$25 fee for returned checks due to insufficient funds or credit card chargebacks.

ADVERTISEMENT

ORDER FORM FOR New Self Assessment

We Need You!

Volunteer to be a Self Assessment Reviewer

Over the next year, NCC will be developing many different self assessment modules. We will need reviewers for the modules and are seeking volunteers to perform this important task. What does a Self Assessment Reviewer do? Reviewers must read the source material. This may be a series of articles, a book, or book chapter if the module is destined for online use. A self assessment examination is provided for review—exams are typically 25-60 questions in length. The reviewer must validate that the question is supported by the source material. If questions are deemed unacceptable, the reviewer must “fix” or write a new question. Finally, the reviewer makes sure that the annotations in the source material that are marked as a reference for correct answers to the questions are indeed correct. Reviewers are given approximately one month to perform the review. Web conferences may be held when reviewer opinions of the questions differ.

The qualifications of a reviewer are simple—you must be currently NCC certified or hold an NCC certificate of qualification, have computer access to e-mail, be able to participate in web conferences if necessary (that means you must be able to access the web and a telephone simultaneously) and be willing to make the time commitment. As a reviewer, you will earn 10 contact hours that you can use to maintain your NCC certification.


If you would like to be considered for a self assessment module reviewer, complete the form on this page and include a copy of your most recent résumé or CV.

Seeking Pretest Participants

Mark August 6 on your calendar. This will be the next administration of paper/pencil testing for NCC and it will be your only availability to take an NCC Pretest exam. Pretest exams are offered for six of the seven core NCC examinations: Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner, Inpatient Obstetric Nursing, Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing, Maternal Newborn Nursing, Low Risk Neonatal Nursing and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.

You take the pretest under real exam conditions at the same time the regular certification examinations are given by paper and pencil format. Your participation provides excellent information to the content teams in the evaluation of new questions. You don’t have to study or prepare; we want you to take it based on your practice knowledge. Taking the pretest earns you 15 contact hours of CE credit to be used for maintaining your NCC certification. And if you are interested in setting up a special test site, all you need is six individuals to take a pretest and it will be given at your own institution (see article on Test Administration Changes). If you want a pretest registration packet, complete the form on this page or download one from the NCC website and click on the download hyperlink on the homepage.

Your input is needed and valued. We hope we can count on you to participate in the pretest program for 2004.

 National Certification Corporation, P.O. Box 11082
Chicago, IL 60611-0082

YES, I want to be a Self Assessment Reviewer*

YES, I want a Pretest registration packet

Name

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (include area code)

E-mail address

What is your certification specialty?

***Remember to include a copy of your CV/résumé.**

Thank You!

An easy way
to earn CE
for maintaining
your NCC
certification

11
NCC

**Certificates
of Added
Qualifications**

Building on **Your Expertise**

NCC subspecialty examinations leading to a certificate of added qualification provide an excellent way to illustrate your special subspecialty knowledge to your colleagues, employer and most importantly your patients.

The current subspecialty examinations offered include

- Electronic Fetal Monitoring
- Menopause Educator
- Breastfeeding
- Gynecologic Reproductive Health for the Primary Care NP and Nurse Midwife
- Menopause Clinician

For more information, you can download any of the NCC registration catalogs from the NCC website. Click on the download hyperlink on the homepage or you can e-mail your request to bburns@nccnet.org. Remember to include your name and address and the exam catalog you want.

**Maintenance
Extensions**

You can request an extension to file and earn your CE credit for maintaining your certification or certificate of added qualification. You must make the request in writing with a postmark date no later than your expiration date. Include your ID number (SS#) and your certification specialty. There is a \$25 fee. Checks should be made payable to NCC.

Fees for **NCC Services**

\$25 for Request for Verification of Certification

Requests must be made in writing and contain a release from the RNC or certificate holder if verification is requested by a third party. Include your ID# (SS#), certification specialty and where you would like the verification sent. Checks should be made payable to NCC.

\$10 Replacement Certificate

If you need a copy of your CE certificate from the NCC Self Assessment Program, put your request in writing, include your ID# (SS#), the module you took and the address where you wish the certificate to be sent. Checks should be made payable to NCC.

\$8 Replacement Card

If you have lost or misplaced your NCC certification card, you can obtain another one by putting your request in writing. Please include your ID# (SS#) and the address you wish the card to be sent. Checks should be made payable to NCC.

You can become a
**Women's Health
Nurse Practitioner
without relocating!**



Distance Learning NP Program offers user-friendly computer software and community-based clinical experience.
• 10-month program
• MSN option

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July 19, 2004**
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Is your institution going **Magnet?**

Is your hospital or health care institution considering pursuing Magnet status? Let NCC help. Certification is one of the steps that can lead to Magnet status. Let us know the person responsible for coordinating this effort and we will provide information and consultation about certification as it relates to achieving Magnet status. E-mail the contact person's name, address, phone and e-mail to Betty Burns, CAE, Executive Director at bburns@nccnet.org.

NCC Adopts New NP Program Criteria

Future Changes to NNP and WHNP Program Requirements

In August 2002, two NCC Board appointed Task Forces met to review NCC's current eligibility criteria and the program requirements currently in effect for NNP and WHNP certification exams. Based on the review of this information and discussion, the task force made recommendations to the NCC Board of Directors who approved them in November 2002. NNP and WHNP programs who wish to have programs recognized by NCC so that their graduates can meet NCC's eligibility criteria will need to show compliance with these new changes beginning for students enrolling in an NP program on **January 1, 2005**. In most cases, most programs already meet these criteria, but in 2005, these requirements must be met by all programs.

NNP Program Requirement Changes

(Modifications or clarifications from current requirements are italicized.)

- The program must consist of 200 didactic and 600 clinical hours in neonatal content and clinical experience. *The 600 clinical hours must be in an NNP role to include assessing, managing and directing the care of the hospitalized high risk neonate.*
- *The NNP program entry requirements must include two years of practice experience in a critical care environment where high risk neonatal care is provided.*
- The program curricula must include specialized content in neonatal physical assessment, pharmacology and physiology/pathophysiology... *However, this may be done in separate individualized courses or in general courses with specific focus on the neonate which should be documented with an identified syllabus of the content covered.*
- *The program must have at least one certified NNP on faculty who is responsible for program development and evaluation.*

These changes or clarifications reflect the recommendations recently published in the NANN Education Standards for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program. Again, these new requirements will go into effect January 1, 2005, for enrolling students.

WHNP Program Requirement Changes

- *The required didactic hours for WHNP programs will be increased from 200 to 250 hours and*
- *The program must have at least one certified WHNP on faculty who is responsible for program development and evaluation.*

These changes reflect the recommendations recently published in the AWHONN/NPWH publication: *The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Guidelines for Practice and Education*. Again, these new requirements will go into effect January 1, 2005, for enrolling students. Effective January 1, 2007, all WHNP programs will be required to be at the graduate (Master's) level.

Is it Primary or Secondary?

NCC receives questions frequently regarding if continuing education course topics can be counted as primary hours to meet the 45 contact hour requirement for maintenance of the RNC credential or the 15 contact hours for a certificate of added qualification.

What drives the determination is if the content is covered on the NCC certification examination. In the maintenance catalog, the general topics of the content outline for the examinations are included. If you need more specific information, the easiest way is to go to the NCC website homepage and download a candidate guide for your specialty from one of the download hyperlinks. The candidate guide lists the detailed content outlines. The general rule is if it's on the outline, it is primary. If not, it's secondary. Content totally out of the specialty area won't count; an example is if an inpatient obstetric nurse took an orthopedic course. **Remember you can use any NCC self assessment module on any topic to meet the primary hour requirement.**

The NCC Item Writer Workshops Return

(continued from page 1)



Barb Grossklags



Julie Briggs & Sabrina Forest



Emily Bennett & Fran Byrd



Myna Laughlin & Janine Fontaine

The final three item writer workshops to be held this year will take place in October and November in Chicago and will be geared toward the specialties of Inpatient Obstetric Nursing and Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioners and Neonatal Nurse Practitioners. Invitations to participate were sent to these RNC groups in July. The selection of those to participate are based on information provided in an informational application, a copy of the applicant's CV or résumé, an essay on why the applicant wants to attend and completion of item writing exercises. NCC pays all the participant's expenses to attend the workshop.

Some of the evaluation comments from the workshop underscored that the workshops are a special professional learning opportunity. Some of the comments were, "excellent learning experience and networking opportunity," "the faculty and staff were so knowledgeable," "an excellent atmosphere for learning," and "I never learned so much as I did at this 1 1/2-day workshop in my whole professional career."

NCC would like to extend its thanks to those who participated in the workshop this year. And a special thank you to the NCC faculty whose expertise is immeasurable to the success of the item writer workshops.

The outstanding faculty included **Emily C. Bennett**, RNC, MS, WHNP—Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems/Department of Ob/Gyn, Richmond, VA; **Susan Blackburn**, RNC, PhD, FAAN—University of Washington, Seattle, WA; **Fran Byrd**, RNC, BSN, MPH—Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital, Columbia, SC; and **Julie Briggs**, RN, BSN, MHA—Good Samaritan Community Health Care, Puyallup, WA.

Staff who participated include **Betty Burns**, CAE, Executive Director, **Mary Werner**, Associate Executive Director, **Barb Grossklags**, Director, Special Projects and **Barbara Cleveland**, Manager of Operations.

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