

National Board for Certification in Continuity of Care Expands Its Offerings

What is the National Board for Certification In Continuity of Care?

The National Board for Certification in Continuity of Care is a coalition of small professional certification boards that have banded together to take advantage of joint management and marketing services. Each member certification board retains its own identity and is responsible for its own polices and procedures, test development, and fees. As a member of the larger board, they are entitled to a representative on the management board.

NBCCC is made up of a voluntary board of directors, comprised of health care professionals with an interest in providing certification with a process that is monitored and managed appropriately. Officers of the NBCCC board are Diane E. Holland, R.N., Ph.D., Mayo Clinic, president; Jackie Birmingham, RN, MS, secretary/treasurer, and board member Agnes McBroom, BSN, PHN, formerly Director, Patient and Family Services, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, CA.

What is a Continuity of Care Professional?

Continuity of care is an interdisciplinary process that includes patients or clients, their families and significant others in the development of a coordinated plan of care. Continuity of care includes many situations beyond those traditionally associated with discharge planning or case management. Certification in continuity of care recognizes that the professional holding the designation demonstrates competency in the many aspects of this challenging process carried out by a variety of health professionals in a multitude of settings.

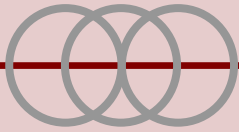
Continuity of care is an essential component of the health care delivery system, particularly in a complex system where there are multiple levels of care and rapid movement of patients between those levels. The certification process promotes quality outcomes in the health status of the patients/clients we serve. NBCCC endorses the concept of voluntary certification by examination for health care professionals involved in any aspect of continuity of care service delivery.

NBCCC Services

The management functions provided for the member certification boards can be customized and could include:

- A headquarters office providing the necessary staff, office space, and technology to carry out administrative functions.
- Prompt response to telephone calls, e-mails, and written correspondence.

- Maintenance of both electronic and paper files in a logical and organized manner.
- Accounting functions, including budgeting, accounts receivable, accounts payable, regular financial statements, and annual tax filing preparation.
- Database development and maintenance for all certificants, including work and home address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, date of certification, certificate number, and date of recertification.
- Strategic planning and organizational development.
- Development and periodic updates of all administrative documents, such as policy manuals, procedure manuals, and bylaws.
- A website maintained and updated as needed, including a searchable list of certificants.
- Staff member attendance, as appropriate, for in-person or conference calls of the member certification board and drafting minutes of the meeting if requested.
- Joint promotional materials, such as brochures, ads, and newsletters to promote the credential to the profession and the public.



Benefits of Membership in NBCCC

Just as in other organizations where large numbers of people help to dictate negotiating power, NBCCC's array of comprehensive services offers small organizations the kinds of management prerogatives that might not otherwise be available. In other words, it gives small organizations the ability to compete and promote its own services on a larger scale. NBCCC provides:

- Access to an experienced, professional management team.
- Across-the-board staffing.
- Thirty years of not-for-profit experience and support.
- Cost effective services.

NBCCC Welcomes National Nephrology Certification Organization

The National Nephrology Certification Organization (NNCO) has joined NBCCC as a strategy to offer a complete roster of services for its members and to assure that a viable, valuable and validated certification process will be maintained.



Mark Rolston, Fresenius Medical Care, president of NNCO, has been invited to join the NBCCC Board and represent the certification programs titled: Certification Examination in Biomedical Nephrology Technology and Certification Examination

in Clinical Nephrology Technology.

NBCCC board member, Agnes McBroom, BSN released the following statement: "We welcome NNCO as certification partners because of our common goal of assuring that knowledgeable and committed health care professionals receive formal recognition of advanced competence in a field through certification." NBCCC looks forward to growing its member organizations and welcomes other organizations with an interest in certification in health care programs.

National Nephrology Certification Organization Helps Clinics to Meet Medicare/Medicaid Mandate



NNCO has provided an on-demand certification examination to help dialysis technicians meet the Medicare/Medicaid mandate that all patient care technicians need to be certified by April 15, 2010. Results of all tests are available at completion so that technicians will know immediately whether they passed or failed.

During April, 2008, the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a final rule that will modernize the Medicare conditions for coverage for the nation's dialysis centers and promote higher quality of care for patients receiving dialysis. Among the various qualifying factors that are critical for the patient care technician is the mandate that they be certified either by a validated state certification examination or a nationally recognized certification examination.

NNCO is uniquely qualified to provide certification that meets the requirements of the CMS ruling. The examinations are developed by respected experts in the field and are updated periodically to reflect changes in the industry and current medical requirements. In addition, NNCO has partnered with Professional Testing Corporation in New York City to ensure its credentialing process is psychometrically sound and meets appropriate standards for professional designation.

National Nephrology Certification Organization Participates at Kidney and Urology Foundation of America

Mark Rolston, president of NNCO, recently served on a planning committee for the Kidney & Urology Foundation of America (KUFA). The committee was set up to plan and implement a multidisciplinary educational conference, *Empowering the Renal Professional to Meet the Changes and Challenges in Healthcare Today*, to be held June 10, 2010 at the New York Hall of Science in Brooklyn, NY. Included on the planning committee were nurses, social workers, administrators, and technicians for both adult and pediatric nephrology and transplantation. The committee was instrumental in helping KUFA to develop a meaningful, accredited program. Carol Bower, program director at KUFA, recently stated, "Mark has been an incredible resource in putting together the technician segment of our program."