

CNRN Corner

The Value of Certification

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When I reflect upon the value of certification, I believe that it is a distinguishing characteristic of a professional. I have been a nurse manager for more than 17 years and I know that one of the pivotal points in the success of my unit was my decision to take on the challenge of the CNRN exam. I was a unit-based educator when I decided to sit for the exam, and once I showed others that it was doable, it became more real and achievable. I even discuss with applicants my expectation that they begin preparing to take the exam at 2 years of practice. We recognize this accomplishment on the unit with a plaque and name tag. It is not uncommon for patients to ask certified staff what their name tag means. What a great opportunity to discuss the difference it makes when a patient has an expert RN caring for them! I still claim my credential with pride and encourage other managers to embrace this mark of excellence.

If you received your CNRN certification in 2004 or were recertified as of January 1, 2005, you are due to recertify in 2009 (www.aann.org/cnrn/duetorenew.html). Please visit www.cnrn.org for the most up-to-date recertification information.

Certified Nurses Day™ is March 19

On Certified Nurses Day, an annual day of recognition developed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), ABNN would like to recognize and appreciate the contribution of certified neuroscience registered nurses (CNRNs) to neuroscience nursing. Fewer than 20% of American nurses are board certified, and ABNN and AANN value the dedicated and passionate CNRNs who make the extra effort to ensure patients know they are receiving the best care.

To increase awareness and recognition of all the work you do, please sign a petition for federal recognition of Certified Nurses Day at www.rnaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=nurseday_Petition.

Certified Nurses Day celebrates the contribution of board-certified nurses to the advancement of nursing professionalism and to higher standards and better outcomes in patient health. For more information, including ways your facility can recognize its board-certified nurses, visit certifiednursesday.org.

If you are a CNRN and you are attending the AANN Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, please join us in celebrating your accomplishment at the CNRN Recognition Breakfast on Sunday, March 29. Preregistration is required.