



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY NURSING™

BCEN at a Glance

BCEN's Mission: The Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN) develops robust certification exams fostering empowered nurses across the emergency spectrum who contribute noticeably to patient care, safety and outcomes.

BCEN's Vision: The Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing is the benchmark for nursing certifications across the emergency spectrum.

About BCEN:

Emergency nurses—whether they work in general or pediatric emergency care, flight and critical care ground transport, or trauma care—must be at the peak of caregiving **excellence**. Board certification is a professionally recognized **achievement** and sought-after mark of excellence that validates specialty knowledge and clinical expertise that empowers nurses to **impact** patient care, safety and outcomes.

Founded in 1980, the **Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN®)** is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops national board certification programs for adult and pediatric emergency, flight and critical care ground transport, and trauma nurses.

Board certification in emergency nursing:

- Validates nurses have met national standards of excellence, ensures ongoing competency, and equips nurses to help their units run safely, efficiently and productively.
- Affirms nurses are the best they can be, distinguishing them among their peers and positioning them for maximum career success.
- Delivers a constant, proven and critical confidence boost as nurses work in health care's most uncertain, demanding and dynamic environment.
- Assures patients and their families that nurses possess a high level of clinical expertise, are on top of best practices, and can provide the highest quality care.

“Certification is the formal recognition of the specialized knowledge, skills, and experience demonstrated by the achievement of standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote optimal health outcomes.”

—*American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) definition of certification*

BCEN's Board Certification Programs:

BCEN offers a comprehensive portfolio of recognized, respected and sought-after specialty certifications for nurses practicing across the emergency spectrum:

CEN® - Certified Emergency Nurse
CFRN® - Certified Flight Registered Nurse
CPEN® - Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse
CTRN® - Certified Transport Registered Nurse
TCRN® - Trauma Certified Registered Nurse

The CEN®, CFRN®, CPEN®, and TCRN® certification programs are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC). Every BCEN national board certification program is ANCC Magnet® Recognition Program-accepted.

(more)

BCEN Programs and Services:

BCEN is dedicated to supporting nurses at every stage of their careers, as well as employers and nursing students, as part of our commitment to offering exceptional emergency nursing specialty certification programs, demonstrating the value of certification, and advocating for board certification for nurses.

In addition to offering five of the nursing profession's most rigorous certification programs, BCEN:

- Provides emergency nurses with certification and recertification resources and tools
- Helps healthcare institutions and health systems thrive with employer programs and resources that support building, growing and recognizing a certified nurse workforce
- Sets nursing students up for success through scholarships (\$175,000 awarded annually)
- Recognizes nurses and institutions who exemplify excellence as they encourage, support, promote and advance emergency nursing specialty certification through BCEN's annual Distinguished CEN®, CPEN®, CFRN®/CTRN®, and TCRN® Awards and BCEN's National Certification Champion Award for small facilities, large facilities, and health systems.

Certification Statistics:

As of June 2019, over 52,000 BCEN certifications are held by nurses practicing across the emergency spectrum, with more than 38,000 nurses holding the CEN® credential.

BCEN Research and the Value of Board Certification for Nurses:

In September 2017, BCEN released the results of the rigorous large-scale study, the **Value of CEN® Certification Research Study**. Reflecting the responses of over 8,800 certified and non-certified emergency nurses and 1,002 of their supervisors, this first-of-its-kind study in emergency nursing demonstrates significant positive correlations between emergency nursing certification and multiple nursing expertise, performance and career outcomes. [Read highlights of the study.](#)

In June and July 2018, BCEN released our first two white papers, one for emergency nurses and another for emergency department leadership and hospital administrators. These research-backed white papers detail the benefits, value and impact of board certification. Copies are available for free download here:

[5 Compelling Reasons to Get \(and Keep\) Your Emergency Nursing Specialty Certification: A White Paper for Emergency Nurses](#)

[Take Your Emergency Department to the Next Level with Board Certified Emergency Nurses: A Special Report for ED Leaders and Hospital Administrators](#)

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