BCEN’s History

With our roots firmly entrenched in empowering nurses to deliver high quality care that improves patient care, safety and outcomes, BCEN’s nearly 40-year history demonstrates a commitment to excellence, industry partnership and supporting nurses practicing across the emergency spectrum who are committed to achieving and maintaining board certification.

**July 2019:** BCEN Executive Director Janie Schumaker begins serving a two-year term as president of the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS).

**January 2019:** The TCRN® certification program earns ABSNC accreditation.

**Fall 2018:** BCEN launches new website ([www.bcen.org](http://www.bcen.org)) and new brand identity.

**July 2018:** BCEN publishes second white paper, *Take Your Emergency Department to the Next Level with Board Certified Emergency Nurses: A Special Report for ED Leaders and Hospital Administrators.*

**June 2018:** BCEN publishes first white paper for emergency nurses, *5 Compelling Reasons to Get (and Keep) Your Emergency Nursing Specialty Certification.*

**December 2017:** BCEN appoints Janie Schumaker as its new executive director.

**October 2017:** Recertification by continuing education (CE) attestation and BCEN digital badges are introduced.

**September 2017:** Results of BCEN’s rigorous, large-scale value of emergency nursing certification study—*The Value of CEN® Certification Research Study*—are announced. Reflecting the responses of over 8,800 certified and non-certified emergency nurses and 1,002 of their supervisors, the first-of-its-kind study in emergency nursing demonstrates significant positive correlations between emergency nursing certification and multiple nursing expertise, performance and career outcomes.

**April 2017:** TCRN® becomes a Magnet®-accepted certification program.

**December 2016:** The Yes You Can! Get Certified Employer Exam Voucher Program is introduced, offering volume-based discounts on certification exam voucher purchases to employers who are committed to building and growing a board certified nurse workforce.

**June 2016:** BCEN becomes the sole owner of the CPEN® certification program.

**February 2016:** TCRN® (Trauma Certified Registered Nurse) certification program launches.

**May 2015:** CPEN® is accredited by ABSNC.*

**2012:** BCEN and the Society of Trauma Nurses study the feasibility of a trauma nursing certification exam.

**January 2012:** BCEN opens new headquarters in Oak Brook, IL.

**February 2009:** CEN®, CFRN®, CPEN®, and CTRN® become Magnet®-accepted certification programs.

*(more)*
January 2009: CPEN® (Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse) certification program launches in partnership with the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board

September 2007: CFRN® is accredited by ABSNC.*

March 2006: CTRN® (Certified Transport Registered Nurse) certification program is introduced.

2005: CFRN® (Certified Flight Registered Nurse) certification program launches.

2005: BCEN and the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board assess the need for pediatric emergency nursing certification.

2004: BCEN and the Air & Surface Transport Nursing Association (ASTNA) fund a role delineation study of flight and ground transport nursing.

February 2002: CEN® is accredited by ABSNC.*

1991: BCEN and the National Flight Nurses Association (now ASTNA) discuss the development of a certification exam for flight nurses.

July 1980: BCEN launches the CEN® (Certified Emergency Nurse) certification program, with 902 emergency nurses passing the first emergency nursing certification examination offered in the U.S. In August 1979, six nurses convened by the Emergency Nurses Association first met to formulate what would eventually become the CEN.

July 1980: The Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN®) is established as an independent, nonprofit corporation.

August 1979: Six nurses convened by the Emergency Nurses Association meet to formulate what will eventually become the first emergency nursing specialty certification.

*The Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certifications (ABSNC) is the only accreditation body specifically for nursing certification. Accreditation by ABSNC is a peer-review mechanism that signifies a certification program has demonstrated compliance with the highest quality standards available in the industry. The 18 standards established by ABSNC validate a certifying organization’s autonomy and ethical operations, sound governance, quality improvement efforts and excellence and rigor of certifying programs.

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Excellence, Achievement, Impact.
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