



Policy 5.1 Continuing Competence

The Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN®) recognizes the importance of continuing competence in the nursing profession and supports the definition that continuing competence is the ongoing ability to integrate and apply knowledge, skills, and judgment with the attitudes, values, and beliefs required to practice safely, effectively, and ethically in a designated role and setting.

Competence, as a construct, is conceptualized as the intersection of affective, cognitive, and psychomotor domains. It is not within the scope of BCEN recertification programs to assess the affective and psychomotor domains; however, the attainment of knowledge, within the cognitive domain, overlaps and influences the other domains, which subsequently translates this knowledge into skilled action in a manner that best serves the consumer. BCEN's recertification programs require that BCEN certificants provide evidence of knowledge attainment through relevant professional activities, with the expectation that this knowledge will be adopted into practice and lead to improved outcomes in safety and quality of care for clients and stakeholders. Recertification requirements protect the public by requiring BCEN certificants to provide evidence of activities related to knowledge attainment.

For BCEN, the evaluation of the construct of competence is operationalized through recertification requirements. Continuing competency, as defined above, assures the public and other stakeholders that a nurse who holds a BCEN certification is held accountable for lifelong learning and maintains mastery across all the domains of the respective content outline.

BCEN supports recertification as a means of encouraging individuals to continue activities essential to maintaining the knowledge and continuing

competence required for their level of practice and certification area. Certificants must recertify every four (4) years.

BCEN offers certificants two options for recertification: Continuing Education (CE) by Attestation or by retaking a current form of the certification examination.

BCEN recertification by CE advances lifelong professional education by requiring that a nurse earn 100 contact hours (1 hour = 60 minutes) of continuing education that has a clear and direct application to the practice of emergency, pediatric emergency, transport (flight or ground), burn, or trauma care nursing, over each 4-year period a nurse holds certification. CE activities may include, but are not limited to, attending traditional continuing education courses, authoring, precepting a nursing student, and taking academic nursing courses. 75 of the 100 contact hours must be 'clinical' (specific to the applicable specialty area of practice), and 25 may be "non-clinical" (educational offerings that are related to the professional practice of nursing). Contact hours must be earned during the previous four (4) years to be eligible, supporting the emphasis on currency and ongoing educational experiences.

Recertification by exam requires that certificants take the same examination offered to certificants earning their initial certification. BCEN conducts a role delineation study (RDS) for each exam program approximately every five (5) years to ensure that exam content is current and relevant. Thus, certificants who elect to recertify by exam are exposed to new test forms and specifications based on the most current RDS. Obtaining a passing score on a current form of the examination attests to the certificants ability not only to maintain the knowledge essential to the area of certification but also to stay abreast of changes in the profession.

Procedure

1. To recertify with CE by Attestation, certificants must submit their CE Recertification by Attestation application online via their BCEN Account, along with the appropriate fee, before their certification expiration date. Details regarding CE requirements are listed on BCEN's website. Policy 5.2 – Processing Recertification by Attestation Applications outlines the procedure for

processing attestation applications.

2. To recertify by examination, certificants must submit a recertification by exam application online via their BCEN Account along with the appropriate fee before their certification expiration date. Certificants are given ninety (90) days to schedule and sit for the exam. It is recommended for certificants to submit the recertification exam application a minimum of ninety (90) days prior to certification expiration.

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