



**BOARD OF CERTIFICATION  
FOR EMERGENCY NURSING**  
Excellence. Achievement. Impact.

## BCEN at a Glance

**Mission:** The Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN®) supports nurses to achieve excellence by being the industry leader in professional credentialing while promoting the value of certification and lifelong learning.

**Vision:** Every patient across the emergency spectrum receives care from a BCEN-certified nurse.

## About BCEN

Emergency, flight, critical care ground transport, trauma, and burn 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 positively **impact** patient care, safety and outcomes.

Founded in 1980, the **Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN)** is an independent, not-for-profit organization that develops national board certification programs for adult/mixed and pediatric emergency, flight and critical care ground transport, trauma, and burn nurses.

**Board certification** in emergency, trauma and transport nursing:

- Validates nurses have met **national standards of excellence** in their specialty, 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 well-prepared to 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

## BCEN's Board Certification Programs

BCEN offers these **recognized, respected and sought-after specialty certifications** for nurses practicing across the emergency spectrum:

	<u>Launch:</u>	<u>Certificants:</u> (on 01/01/25)
<a href="#">CEN</a> – Certified Emergency Nurse	1980	40,690
<a href="#">CFRN</a> – Certified Flight Registered Nurse	1993	7,179
<a href="#">CPEN</a> – Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse	2009	5,612
<a href="#">CTRN</a> – Certified Transport Registered Nurse	2006	614
<a href="#">TCRN</a> – Trauma Certified Registered Nurse	2016	8,075
<a href="#">CBRN</a> – Certified Burn Registered Nurse	2023	538

The CEN®, CFRN®, CPEN®, CTRN® and TCRN® certification programs are *nationally accredited* by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) and ANCC Magnet® Recognition Program-accepted. As of January 2025, **over 50,000 RNs** practicing in **28 countries** hold one or more BCEN credential.

## Certification Support Programs & Services

BCEN is dedicated to supporting nurses at every stage of their careers as well as nurse educators, leaders, and administrators committed to building a specialty certified emergency nursing workforce.

BCEN's **award-winning** CE and professional development platform, [BCEN Learn](#), launched in fall 2020, features interactive advanced CE courses, free CE webinars, full-length practice exams, games, and the "BCEN & Friends" podcast.

Since 2022, BCEN's twice-a-year [BCEN Learn Live conferences](#) feature TED talk-style clinical and leadership CE sessions specifically designed for certified emergency, trauma and transport nurses, plus the chance to be recognized, network with other certified nurses, and recharge with self-care activities.

BCEN also helps nursing students, RNs, educators and employers thrive with:

- An industry-leading portfolio of certification and recertification [resources and tools](#), including the popular [Nurse Recognition Kit](#).
- Volume discounts on certification and recertification through the [BCEN Voucher Program](#).
- Academic [scholarships](#) for nursing students and RNs (over \$1.5 million since 2012).
- Recognition for nurses and institutions committed to nursing excellence across the emergency spectrum with the annual [BCEN Distinguished Awards](#) and [BCEN National Certification Champion Award](#).
- The [BCEN EDvantage](#) certificate, to help new RNs secure their first ED job.

## Research Firsts

In 2022, BCEN conducted the **first value of certification research with flight and critical care ground transport nurses**. *Read the current and upcoming findings of the [CTRN and CFRN Pulse Surveys](#).*

In 2019, BCEN initiated a research partnership with emergency, trauma and transport industry organizations to conduct the **first major nursing workforce study spanning the emergency, trauma and transport specialties**. *Read the peer-reviewed findings of [the Emergency/Trauma/Transport Nursing Workforce Survey](#).*

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 emergency nursing value of certification study** demonstrates significant positive correlations between the CEN emergency nursing certification and multiple nursing expertise, performance and career outcomes.

## White Papers & Commitment to Excellence Series

BCEN's research-backed [white papers](#) for specialty certified nurses, nurse leaders, educators, ED administrators and healthcare decisionmakers detail the benefits, value and impact of board certification and how to build a certified nurse workforce.

BCEN's [Commitment to Excellence Series](#) chronicles the history, evolution and impact of BCEN's industry-leading portfolio of emergency nursing specialty certifications.

*For more facts & stats, visit BCEN's [annual report](#) and interactive [history timeline](#).*

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