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 nurses 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, and trauma 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Launch</th>
<th>Certificants: (on 1/1/24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEN – Certified Emergency Nurse</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>40,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFRN – Certified Flight Registered Nurse</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>6,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPEN – Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTRN – Certified Transport Registered Nurse</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCRN – Trauma Certified Registered Nurse</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>7,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBRN – Certified Burn Registered Nurse</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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 2024, **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, conferences on demand, 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 findings of the CFRN and CTRN 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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