



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY NURSING

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, trauma, critical care transport, 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 offers national board certification programs for registered nurses (RNs) specializing in adult/mixed and pediatric emergency, trauma, flight, critical care ground transport, and burn care. BCEN also offers an industry-leading portfolio of nursing specialty certification support resources and services.

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

- Validates RNs 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 RNs 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 healthcare's most unpredictable, 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 are 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 nursing specialty certifications:**

	<u>Launch:</u>	<u>Certificants:</u> (as of 01/01/26)
CEN® – Certified Emergency Nurse	1980	41,636
CFRN® – Certified Flight Registered Nurse	1993	7,769
CTRN® – Certified Transport Registered Nurse	2006	669
CPEN® – Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurse	2009	5,827
TCRN® – Trauma Certified Registered Nurse	2016	8,741
CBRN® – Certified Burn Registered Nurse	2023	722

All six of BCEN's certification programs are *nationally accredited* by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) and are *accepted* by the ANCC Magnet® Recognition Program. As of January 1, 2026, **nearly 55,000 RNs** practicing in **30 countries** held one or more BCEN credential, for a total of **65,364 credentials** held.

Certification Support Resources & Services

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

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

Since 2022, [BCEN Learn Live conferences](#) have featured TED talk-style clinical and leadership CE sessions specifically designed for board-certified emergency, trauma, critical care transport and burn nurses, plus the opportunity for specialty-certified nurses to be recognized and network with their peers.

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 and professional development [scholarships](#) (over \$1.5 million since 2012).
- Recognition for nurses and healthcare institutions committed to nursing excellence across the emergency spectrum with the annual [BCEN Distinguished Awards](#) and [BCEN National Certification Champion Award](#).

Research Firsts

In fall 2025, BCEN published detailed findings from the [2025 Culture of Certification Support Survey](#).

In 2022, BCEN conducted the **first value of certification research with flight and critical care ground transport nurses**. *Read the 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 [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 series of five 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 and sustain a specialty-certified nurse workforce.

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

*For more facts & stats, visit BCEN's [annual report](#) and interactive [history timeline](#).
Connect with BCEN on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).*

#

Rev 01/26

Excellence. Achievement. Impact.

1900 Spring Road | Suite 501 | Oak Brook, IL 60523

toll-free +1-877-302-BCEN (2236) | fax +1-630-596-8250 | email bcen@bcen.org

BCEN.org