December 16, 2015

Dear AANPCP Candidates and Certificants,

Re: Retirement of the Adult Nurse Practitioner National Certification Examination

To meet the requirements of the APRN Consensus Model's regulations for the adult and gerontology population foci, AANPCP:

- Will retire the Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP) National Certification Examination in December 2016.
- Launched both the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Certification Program and the A-GNP National Certification Examination in January 2013.
- Retired the Gerontologic Nurse Practitioner (GNP) examination in December 2012.
- Has received recognition by all State Boards of Nursing and is accredited by national and international organizations.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DEADLINES FOR THE ADULT NURSE PRACTITIONER EXAMINATION

- All applications for the Adult NP exam must be submitted by Monday, August 15, 2016 to allow sufficient time to process applications and schedule a testing date prior to the December deadline.
- The last day to take the computer-based test will be Friday, December 23, 2016.
- Candidates who have completed an Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP educational program are not eligible to take the Adult NP examination.
- Candidates who have completed an Adult NP educational program are not eligible to take the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP examination.

What does this mean to you if you are currently enrolled in an Adult Nurse Practitioner educational program?

- Most Adult NP educational programs have fully transitioned to the Adult-Gerontology NP educational program. Students who initially enrolled in Adult NP programs may have completed curricula that meet the Adult-Gerontology competencies.
- All Adult NP students and recent graduates should clarify with their NP program director if they are eligible to take the Adult-Gerontology NP certification exam.

What does this mean to you if you are currently certified as an Adult Nurse Practitioner?

- NPs currently certified by AANPCP as an Adult Nurse Practitioner will continue to be certified, credentialed, and recognized by AANPCP as an ANP-C as long as the requirements for renewal of certification are met AND the certification DOES NOT EXPIRE.
- Only the Adult National Certification Examination is being retired, not the ANP-C credential.
- Renewal of ANP certification is required every 5 years.
- Adult NP certification can be maintained only through clinical practice hours and continuing education.
- Renewal of an ANP certification by examination will no longer be an available option after the August 15, 2016 application deadline.
- The option to recertify by examination will no longer be available after December 2016. NPs who allow their certification to expire will be unable to renew their existing certification without meeting current requirements for the Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner certification.
- If your certification expires, this may affect state licensing, employer credentialing, third-party reimbursement, and employment.
The National Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education... Was initially published in 2008. It was endorsed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Board of Directors in 2008, and the APRN Legislative Language was approved by the 2008 NCSBN Delegate Assembly. The target date for full implementation of the regulatory model and all recommendations was Year 2015.

The Consensus Model serves as the regulatory model for the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). It provides guidance for the uniformity of the APRN’s role and practice regulation across the United States, and delineates the standards for the essential elements of licensure, accreditation, certification, education, and practice of the APRN.

The Consensus Model defines:

- **APRN roles and titles to be used**: Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM), and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS).
- **Education requirements** for entry into APRN practice.
- **APRN Core competencies**: Includes graduate-level advanced pathophysiology, assessment, and pharmacology courses.
- **Population foci**: Competencies in at least one of 6 populations (family/individual across the lifespan, adult-gerontology, pediatrics, neonatal, women’s health/gender-related, or psych/mental health).
- **Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) practice**.
- **Optional preparation in a Specialty area of Practice**: Builds on the APRN role/population-focus competencies (e.g., oncology, orthopedic).

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP) has endorsed the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation since June 2004. AANPCP is committed to adhering to the Model’s foundational requirements for certification that 1.) Follow established certification testing and psychometrically sound, legally defensible standards for APRN examinations for licensure; 2.) Assess the APRN core and role competencies across at least one population focus of practice; 3.) Is accredited by a national certification accreditation body.

**Published Information**

In addition to information that may be found on our website, information about the upcoming retirement of the ANP exam has been published in the following journals:

- *Journal of Nurse Practitioners (JNP)* - September 2014 issue

**It Is Extremely Important That You Keep Your NP Certification Current.**

The application process may be started as early as 1 year in advance of expiration of your current certification. Create your AANPCP Online Profile. Check your Online Profile often for currency of your contact information.

Visit [www.aanpcert.org](http://www.aanpcert.org) for more information and to review certification renewal requirements.

If you have further questions about the retirement of the Adult Exam, please email us at certification@aanpcert.org.

Sincere Regards,

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