



# AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER

Nursing Excellence: Your Journey – Our Passion

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## **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Announces Introduction of New Specialty Exams**

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Commission on Certification (COC) will take a new approach toward developing specialty exams. Findings from recent role delineation studies revealed that there were not significant differences in the tasks and activities performed by the nurses, based on their initial educational preparation.

This means that one exam will be offered for nurses at the specialty level regardless of the nursing preparation. This approach will affect the following exams:

- Cardiac/Vascular Nurse
- Gerontological Nurse
- Medical-Surgical Nurse
- Pediatric Nurse
- Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse

Role delineation studies are conducted at regular intervals in order to preserve the integrity of certification exams. Study findings provide objective, evidence-based assessment of the knowledge, skills and abilities required to practice competently in the specialty. A benefit of the current findings is that applicants will experience a streamlined process; this change will facilitate nurses' application and eligibility process

for specialty nursing exams, because only a valid RN license will be required to document completion of a nursing education program. There is no change in any of the other eligibility requirements.

The first of the new specialty exams to be introduced will be the Medical-Surgical exam, January 1, 2007, with others being introduced according to a schedule to be determined. In addition to being introduced in the new form, the Medical-Surgical exam will also move from paper and pencil to computer-based testing format. This change will allow nurses to test year-round for medical-surgical certification, rather than waiting for the paper and pencil exams' two testing windows in May and October each year.

### **The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)**

ANCC is the nation' s leading nursing credentialing organization, offering general and advanced practice certification in over 35 specialty areas. In addition, ANCC offers nursing continuing education contact hours and review course materials through its Institute for Credentialing Innovation, accredits organizations that offer and/or approve continuing education courses for registered nurses, and promotes excellence in nursing services through its Magnet Recognition Program®. ANCC certifications and designations are highly regarded by federal, state and local agencies and the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors across the nation and globally. Each ANCC program is offered on an international platform through the ANCC Credentialing International program. The American Nurses Credentialing Center is a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA). Its web site can be found at [www.nursecredentialing.org](http://www.nursecredentialing.org).

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