



## AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER

Nursing Excellence: Your Journey – Our Passion

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### **ANCC Announces Next Generation Nursing Certification Credentials**

The ANCC Commission on Certification (COC) announces the next generation certification credentials in concert with introduction of new specialty exams. (See attached communiqué: ANCC Announces Introduction of New Specialty Exams.)

Beginning today, all ANCC-certified specialty nurses will receive the credential RN-BC, defined as Registered Nurse, Board Certified; this replaces a differentiation between the RN,C and RN,BC credentials.

The next generation credential will be reflected on new certifications and renewals. Effective immediately, all ANCC-certified specialty nurses may use the new credential for their professional documentation; however previously issued certificates remain valid and will not be replaced until renewal. The new credentials, signifying that all ANCC-certified nurses are board-certified, are meant to simplify, clarify and unify professional credentials. The decision to announce next generation certification credentials was based in part on feedback received from nearly 3,000 ANCC-certified nurses who participated in a survey, in which over 75% approved this change.

With the introduction of the new credential, there will no longer be a difference in credentials based on education. Now, all specialty-certified nurses will receive the RN-BC credential. ANCC Director of Certification Mary Smolenski, EdD, APRN,BC, FAANP, CAE, said “The key message is that, as in other health care professions, you are either board certified or not. Consistency in titling contributes to building uniformity across health care professions, based on a common understanding of board certification.”

This communiqué is part of an on ongoing effort to review the credentials used in nursing certification. Studies are in progress on titling of ANCC-certified clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners.

**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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