

To recertify by contact hours, you must earn 90 verified contact hours (CH) from any of the 12 categories. 68 contact hours must be about medical-surgical (MS) nursing. The remaining 22 hours may be MS or Professional Development (PD). All activity must be entered into the [Contact Hours Tracker](#) before MSNCB can verify the hours. Verification can take up to 30 days and not all hours may be verified at the same time.

Medical-Surgical CH

Specific to medical-surgical nursing practice and direct patient care. *Excludes* psychiatry, obstetrics, gynecology, and pediatrics.

Professional Development CH

Related to the broad area of health care and general nursing. Includes nursing informatics and theory, ethics, leadership, and more.

Examples Include But Are Not Limited To:

- The Older Adult: Challenges for Nursing Assessment and Care
- Diabetes Mellitus: A Life-Changing Disease
- Disorders of the Gastrointestinal System
- Cancer Nursing, Prevention and Early Detection
- Cardiology: Evaluating Shortness of Breath
- Falls: Assessment and Prevention
- Sepsis in the Adult Patient: Identification and Initial Care
- Assessment of Pain in Special Populations
- Acute Care Management of Stroke
- Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Cultural Considerations

- Facing Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing
- Solving Team Dysfunctions
- Legal Issues and Documentation
- Common Pediatric Respiratory Concerns
- Strategies to Reduce Compassion Fatigue
- Nursing Practice in a Consumer Driven Environment
- Cultivating Emotional Competence for the Nurse Leader
- Self-Care Every Nurse Needs
- Nursing Informatics System Design
- Laws and Rules of Florida Nursing Practice
- Partnership: Making the Most of Mentoring

90 total verified contact hours comprised of 68 medical-surgical contact hours and an additional 22 medical-surgical OR professional development contact hours are required to recertify by contact hours.

68

Medical-Surgical
Contact Hours



22

Medical-Surgical OR
Professional Development
Contact Hours

Category	Requirements	Formula	Max CH	Type
1 Continuing Education	Continuing education from an accredited provider or approver of NCPDs. ACLS is accepted once per certification period. BLS and CPR are not accepted.	1 NCPD = 1 CH	90	MS PD
2 Preceptor/Mentor	Provide medical-surgical focused clinical supervision to baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree students and/or newly hired nurses. Enter in Tracker and then email the preceptorship form to certification@amsn.org .	6 HOURS = 1 CH	20	MS
3 Academic Credits	Academic courses related to nursing successfully completed while enrolled in an accredited baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree program. Enter in Tracker and then email the unofficial transcript to certification@amsn.org .	1 CREDIT/HOUR = 15 CH	75	MS PD
4 Presentation	Preparation and presentation of content for academic courses or NCPD programs. Presentations must award to participants either academic credit or contact hours by an accredited provider or approver of NCPDs.	1 HOUR = 3 CH	45	MS PD
5 Professional Publications	Author, co-author, or editor of a book, book chapter, or published article. The article must be a manuscript or research paper, and any publication must be published by a recognized publisher or professional journal.	BOOK = 25 CH CHAPTER = 10 CH ARTICLE = 5 CH	25	MS PD
6 Conference Poster	The poster must be relevant to medical-surgical nursing and presented at a regional or national meeting. If poster is presented more than once, credit is allowed for one presentation only.	1 POSTER = 5 CH	20	MS PD

Category	Requirements	Formula	Max CH	Type
7 Multimedia Development	The development of program content for audiovisual or other multimedia.	ONE HOUR PROGRAM = 5 CH	20	MS PD
8 Research or Evidence-Based Practice Projects	<p>Research project approved by the Investigational Review Board (IRB) of a healthcare facility in which you are one of the primary investigators. Enter in Tracker and then email the research proposal submitted to the facility's IRB to certification@amsn.org.</p> <p>EBP projects that have been given exempt status by the IRB or have been implemented in your healthcare facility and are reflected in its policies, procedures, or clinical guidelines. You must have been involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the project. Enter in Tracker and then email the research proposal to certification@amsn.org.</p>	<p>RESEARCH = 30 CH</p> <p>EBP = 15 CH</p>	30	MS PD
9 National Nursing Org Board or Committee	Board member or committee chair of a national nursing organization.	1 TERM = 5 CH	5	PD
10 MSNCB Test Development	Members of MSNCB Test Development, Item Writer or Item Reviewer Committees may count active participation time.	ONE FULL MEETING = 5 CH	20	MS PD
11 MSNCB Recertification Committee	Members of MSNCB Recertification Committee may count active participation time.	1 YEAR = 2 CH	20	PD
12 AMSN Volunteer Unit	Members of most AMSN Volunteer Units may count active participation time. Contact AMSN's Volunteer Relations Coordinator to determine eligibility.	1 YEAR = 5 CH	20	MS PD

Where do I enter my practice hours?

You must have earned 1,000 practice hours of medical-surgical nursing during your five year certification period. Practice hours are different from contact hours. Do not enter your practice hours into your Tracker. Instead, you will attest to meeting the practice hour requirement when you complete the recertification application. You only need to show documentation for practice hours if you are selected for audit.

Do contact hours expire?

Yes! Contact hours do expire. During your first certification period, you can claim contact hours going back to the first day of the year in which you passed the CMSRN exam. For every subsequent certification period, you can claim any contact hours earned during your 5-year certification period.

If you recertify early, any contact hours earned between your application being approved and your next certification start date will *not* count towards your next recertification.

If you are in your grace period, your contact hours will expire on a rolling 5-year basis. You can only claim contact hours going back 5 years from the date you submit your recertification application.

What is a grace period?

You can still recertify by contact hours up to one year after the expiration of your CMSRN certification. This one-year period is referred to as your grace period. If your recertification application during your grace period is approved, your certification will be backdated to your last CMSRN expiration date. However, your certification is still expired in your grace period and you cannot use your CMSRN. Late fees will apply to recertify during your grace period.

This guide is current as of October 2021. Please see [Renew Your Certification](https://www.amsn.org/certification) under [amsn.org/certification](https://www.amsn.org/certification) for the most up-to-date information about CMSRN recertification.

Audit

10% of all recertification applications are selected for audit. You will be required to supply certificates and other contact hour documentation if you are selected.

Failure to or declining to complete the audit will result in a revocation of your CMSRN and your fees will be forfeit. See the [CMSRN Guide](#) to find out what an audit requires.

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