

MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING CERTIFICATION

IT IS THE POSITION OF AMSN THAT:

- The Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN®) exam incorporates current nursing science and evidenced-based practices that the medical-surgical nurse consistently applies in practice to achieve desired patient outcomes across the continuum of care.
- The CMSRN exam validates the expertise and knowledge of the medical surgical nurse and promotes medical-surgical nursing as a unique specialty.
- The CMSRN credential recognizes that the highest standards of medical surgical nursing practice have been achieved.
- The CMSRN exam is the only medical-surgical certification exam endorsed by AMSN.
- Health care facilities and leaders should recognize the value of the medical-surgical nurse as a specialist and promote certification as part of the medical-surgical nurse's career development plan.

OVERVIEW:

AMSN members requested a certification that indicated the medical-surgical nursing specialty in the credential. AMSN initiated the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB) as an autonomous affiliate for the coordination of a certification exam in medical-surgical nursing to validate knowledge in the specialty and offer such a credential. The CMSRN examination received accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) in January of 2009. The ABSNC is the only accrediting body specifically for nursing certification. Accreditation demonstrates that the CMSRN credential is based on a valid and reliable testing process.

RATIONALE:

Medical-Surgical certification benefits the individual, the profession, and the public through:

- Promotion of quality patient care
- Evaluation of the standards of medical-surgical nursing practice
- Documentation of this specialized knowledge base
- Peer recognition
- Increased self-esteem and satisfaction

AMSN supports certification as a commitment to safe, evidence-based, holistic care which results in desired patient outcomes.

AMSN agrees that the certification credential should reflect the nursing specialty in which the nurse is certified.

ABSNC believes that the increasingly complex patient/client needs within the current healthcare delivery system, are best met when registered nurses, certified in specialty practice, provide nursing care.

DEFINITION:

Certification: 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 (ABNS, 2006)

Nursing Science: in nursing, the resulted knowledge obtained through rigorous testing of empirical theories and models (Chinn & Kramer, 2011)

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