

New ANCC Credential effective January 1, 2008

Recently, all NPs certified by ANCC received in the mail a new “suitable for framing” certificate to display their newly adopted change in your certification credentials. Yes, it changed again for those who have held this board certification for several years!

When certification started by ANA in 1974 the credential was RN,C. When clinical specialists became more prominent and wanted recognition, and nurse practitioner programs came about in the late 70’s, early 80’s the “specialist” terminology was coming on to the scene. At this point the credential used RN,C for the generalist and RN,CS to show the higher level education and skill of these specialists.

In 2000 when ANCC wanted to recognize the bachelor prepared certified nurse with a different exam and credential, they instituted the RN,C and RN,BC for certified and board certified. At the same time the advanced practice credentials changed to more accurately reflect the roles of clinical nurse specialist and nurse practitioners, hence the APRN,BC was used.

ANCC recently (late 2006) changed the basic specialty credential to RN-BC for all nurses regardless of educational preparation, since this latest role delineation studies did not show significant difference across basic specialty RNs to warrant two separate exams.

The new NP & CNS designations are as follows:

ACNS-BC (Adult CNS - Board Certified)

GCNS-BC (Gerontological CNS - Board Certified)

PCNS-BC (Pediatric CNS - Board Certified)

PMHCNS-BC (Psychiatric Mental Health CNS - Board Certified) -
used for both Child/Adolescent
and Adult

ACNP-BC (Acute Care Nurse Practitioner - Board Certified)

ANP-BC (Adult Nurse Practitioner - Board Certified)

FNP-BC (Family Nurse Practitioner - Board Certified)

GNP-BC (Gerontological Nurse Practitioner - Board Certified)

PNP-BC (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Board Certified)

PMHNP-BC (Family Psych and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - Board Certified) (Family will be on the certificate and can be added if desired)

PMHNP-BC (Adult Psych and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - Board Certified)

Remember, this is your board certification title and not the State of Florida regulatory title that we must use after our name: ARNP.

An example is this:

Susan Smith, MS, ARNP is the proper way to display your official title. You could add your ANCC certification credential at the end. So **Susan Smith, MS, ARNP, FNP-BC** could be correct format for this.

No, you do not have to use the new ANCC credential although it does provide the distinction of being board certified. The only credential you really have to use is the one the state board tells you to use.

Note: The credential title for those certified by AANP as Adult and Family NPs has not changed. That title is:

Questions?

Call ANCC toll free at 800-284-2378 or email: anccComm@ana.org.