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Medical-Surgical Certification - You can do it!

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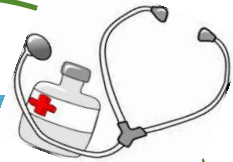
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Medical-Surgical Certification—You can do it!

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Nursing certification is an official recognition of a nurse's knowledge and expertise within an area of specialty practice. Nurses value certification as it contributes to personal accomplishment and satisfaction. Certification is valued not only by the individual nurse, but also by patients. It has been correlated with increased patient satisfaction scores and improved quality of care. Some of these positive patient outcomes include decreased fall rates, and decreased mortality and failure to respond rates. Evidence has shown that certification enhances staff nurses empowerment, subsequently decreasing turnover and increasing retention. Enhanced feelings of personal accomplishment, personal satisfaction, and validation of specialized knowledge, along with recognition from peers and employers, have been experienced with attainment of med-surg certification.

So why wouldn't you want to become certified?! Below is all the information you need to start the process.

Who's Eligible for Certification?

Eligibility includes:

- Current, full, unrestricted license as a RN in the U.S.;
- Practiced as a RN for a full 2 years in the med-surg setting at the time you APPLY (not when you take the exam);
- And have accrued a minimum of 2,000 hours of practice as a RN within the past 3 years in a med-surg setting.

How to Register for the Exam (It's Free to you!)

Eligible St. Cloud Hospital RNs may register to become certified (CMSRN) using the 'FailSafe' way through AMSN. This is how it works:

- You do not need to pay a fee to register to take the certification exam.
- If you pass the Med-Surg exam, the organization pays the exam fee.
- If you are unsuccessful, you can take the exam a second time.
- If you pass the second time, the organization pays the exam fee.
- If you do not pass the second time, no one pays the exam fee.
- To register, go to www.msncb.org/apply and enter the facility's FailSafe code: fsCCHS0614

Exam Preparation

Taking an **optional** review course can help you to successfully pass.

- The next offering of a Med-Surg certification review course is:
 - May 26-27, 2015 (2-day course)
 - 0730-1630
 - Location: Windfeldt Room at CentraCare Plaza
- As per policy, The Surgical Care Unit will pay for the review course if the RN attending sits for the exam within 6 months of taking the course. The RN does have to pay for the course up front, but will be reimbursed. Please notify Kris Nelson if you plan to do this.
- See Kathy Morin for additional review materials/resources.

Passing the Exam

When it's time for the exam:

- Get a good night's sleep
- Arrive early to avoid additional stress on testing day
- During the test, read each question carefully and make sure you understand what it's asking. After selecting your answer, read the question and your answer again. Make changes only if you're absolutely sure that your first response is incorrect.
- When you've finished the exam, the results are available within minutes.
- Once you've obtained certification, provide a copy of this document to your director.
- Your certification lasts 5 years. Your next step would be to review criteria for recertification.

References

- Fights, S. (2015). Reap the benefits of certification. *Journal of Trauma Nursing*, 22(1), 3-4.
- Perlstein, L., Hoffman, R., Lindberg, J., & Petras, D. (2014). Addressing barriers to achieving nursing certification: Development of a certification achievement program on a medical-surgical unit. *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, 30(6), 309-315.

