

# **GASTROENTEROLOGY CERTIFICATION**

## **(CGRN- Certified Gastroenterology Registered Nurse)**

### **BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION**

The purposes of certification for gastroenterology nurses include:

- Demonstrating accountability to the general public for gastroenterology specialty practice;
- Enhancing quality patient care;
- Recognizing professional nurses who have met an accepted level of experience and demonstrated a standard of knowledge in gastroenterology and gastroenterology endoscopy practice;
- Promoting personal satisfaction for professional nurses;
- Providing employers with a means of identifying professionals who have met a standard of achievement

### **APPLICATION**

For application information, visit <http://www.cbgna.org>. Forms are available online and may be printed out and mailed in.

### **CERTIFICATION RENEWAL**

Gastroenterology certification is granted for a period of five years. The certification period begins with the date certification is granted (the exam date) and ends on December 31 five years later. Candidates may recertify either by taking the then-current certification examination or by submitting an application for recertification by contact hours.

Candidates who choose to recertify by examination undergo exactly the same procedure as do candidates for initial certification. They must meet the same eligibility criteria and take the same examinations as new candidates.

To qualify for recertification by contact hours, candidates must submit documentation of 100 approved contact hours, including copies of contact hour certificates, writings, programs, etc. Since contact hours are accepted in lieu of re-examination, approved contact hours must be in specific categories and must include specific content which mirror to content of the examination. For example, 80 of the 100 required contact

hours must be gastroenterology-specific, and 50 of those GI-specific contact hours must be earned through participation in approved nursing seminars or workshops.

For more information, visit [http://www.cbgna.org/handbook\\_recert.html](http://www.cbgna.org/handbook_recert.html).

## **CBGNA CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION**

The Certifying Board of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (CBGNA) employs a professional testing company in the development and administration of the certification examinations and is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). There are two CBGNA examinations, one for RNs and one for LPNs and LVNs. For our purposes, we will discuss the RN examination only.

The RN who achieves CBGNA certification has validated qualifications and knowledge in GI nursing, and may use the designation CGRN.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

CBGNA certification is open to nurses currently or recently engaged in gastroenterology and gastroenterology endoscopy practice. To qualify, candidates must have been employed in clinical, supervisory, administrative, educational or research capacities in an institutional or private practice setting for a minimum of two (2) years full-time, or its part-time equivalent of 4000 hours, within the past five (5) years. Each candidate is required to obtain the signatures of two practitioners in the specialty (or physicians, supervisors or human resources specialists) who can verify this work experience.

### **Description of the Test**

The examination consists of 150 multiple choice questions. Each question has four choices and one correct answer. Candidates have three hours to complete the examination.

The RN examination contains questions from four major content areas. Approximately 18% of the questions test knowledge and skills on general nursing care, 47.3% on gastroenterological procedures, 22% on patient care interventions and 12.7% on professional standards and responsibilities. All questions are directly related to the GI specialty.