AANPCP and the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation

January 2013 - AANPCP endorses the implementation of the national Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: LACE (Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education). Initially proposed in 2008, the APRN Consensus Regulatory Model is endorsed by more than 45 national nursing organizations. Full implementation of the Model is anticipated by 2015. The Model's goal is uniformity and coordination among those entities involved with the Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education of APRNs in general. The transitions will benefit APRNs, as well as the patient populations we care for across the country.

As the certifying body for more than 40,000 primary care nurse practitioners, AANPCP will continue to be an active participant in the discussions and implementation of the regulatory Model. AANPCP will continue to offer competency-based National Certification Examinations for graduates of accredited masters, post-graduate, and doctoral level adult, family, and adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner programs.

AANPCP's Certification and Recertification requirements will continue to reflect, validate, and protect our Certificant's qualifications, competencies, and credentials. Changes affecting AANPCP's National Certification program are underway as we prepare for full implementation of the APRN Consensus Model. The retirement of our Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Certification Examination is one example.

Information and resources about the Consensus Model is available for nurse practitioners, health care providers, employers, and the general public regarding such important issues as: APRN roles, population foci, scope-of-practice, grandfathering, competencies, and rationales. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), and the APRN-Lace Network are three (3) excellent resources. Applicants and Certificants are encouraged to visit State Board of Nursing's websites on a regular basis to stay current with individual state's regulatory changes affecting NP's practice and licensure.

Because the transition directly impacts our certificants and candidates, AANPCP encourages you to become informed about the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: LACE. You are encouraged to create, or update your contact information, on your AANPCP Online Profile. Please visit our website often for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between AANP and AANPCP?
A: The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) is a membership organization. It is the only full service organization for NP students and nurse practitioners of all specialties. AANP provides numerous benefits to members, including access to free continuing education (CE), discounts on the Certification Exam application, and reduced registration fees for NP students and members attending the AANP National Conference. Information may be found on their website at www.aanp.org.

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCP) is a separately incorporated entity that certifies Adult, Family, and Gerontologic nurse practitioners through national certification examinations in preparation for licensure and professional credentialing. To start your certification application process, create or access your on-line profile/ account, update your personal information, or for information regarding AANPCP, Inc., visit our website at www.aanpcertification.org.

Please be aware that your Certification Number is NOT the same as your AANP Member Number.

Q: What address do I use to mail correspondence or my documentation (CEs, official transcripts, applications, name changes) to?
A: Documents should be mailed to: AANPCP, P.O. Box 12926, Austin, TX 78711

- Documents requiring overnight delivery, or mailings requiring a signature (USPS/ UPS/FedEx), should be sent to: AANPCP, 2600 Via Fortuna, Suite240, Austin, TX 78746

Q: What is the National Consensus Model for APRN Regulation?
A: In 2008, the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education (LACE) was published. There are currently 45 national nursing organizations, including AANPCP, involved in this collaborative effort. The creation of this regulatory model will help to define the 4 roles of the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) today at the graduate level, as well as serve to provide clarity and consistency in states laws, regulations and schools of nursing governing APRN roles, standards, and practices. The goals of the Consensus Model include increased
transparency and communication among the 4 regulatory components of licensure, accreditation, certification, and education; and protection of the public by ensuring that APRNs are comprehensively educated and prepared to practice appropriately. The proposed implementation date is 2015.

Q: What does APRN “Core”, “Role” and “Population Foci” mean?
A: For licensure and APRN credentialing under the APRN Consensus Model, requirements specify that all APRNs be educated in nationally recognized competencies of the APRN Core (advanced pathophysiology, health assessment, and pharmacology); the APRN Role (appropriate clinical and didactic experiences in 1 of the 4 APRN roles: CNP, CNS, CNA, CNM); and population-focused competencies in at least 1 of 6 population foci: lifespan/family, adult-gerontology, pediatrics, neonatal, women's health/gender-related, or psych/mental health.

Q. Will I be required to have a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree by 2015 to be eligible to sit for the AANPCP National Certification Exam?
A: Unsure. The concept of changing the entry-level terminal degree for advance practice nurses from a MSN to the DNP by the year 2015 has been under discussion for more than a decade. It is a recommendation, and AANPCP does endorse the idea of the DNP. The implementation of such a requirement is complex and is, therefore, not yet a mandate. Current entry-level preparation for NP practice is a graduate degree in nursing. AANPCP will continue to offer certification as long as you have a master's degree, post-master's certificate, or doctoral degree from an accredited APRN program.

Q: Where can I find more information on the APRN Consensus Model?
A: For more information and for references, please refer to:

- National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (www.nonpf.org)
- The following Position Statements under the Publications tab on the AANP website (www.aanp.org):
  - Discussion Paper: Doctor of Nursing Practice (AANP, 2010)
  - Position Statement on Nurse Practitioner Curriculum (AANP, 2010)
- The National Council of State Boards of Nursing website (www.ncsbn.org).