Heart failure nurses are specialists with an exclusive interest in and passion for improving outcomes in patients with heart failure. With this passion comes the need to continuously grow in the field and improve patient care.

Becoming a Certified Heart Failure Nurse (CHFN) or a Certified Heart Failure Nurse-Knowledge based (CHFN-K) confirms your knowledge to patients and their families, peers and employers. Certification serves as a mark of clinical knowledge in the assessment, treatment and evaluation of the plan of care for patients with heart failure. Certification demonstrates your desire to keep current in heart failure and advance your career. By becoming a CHFN or CHFN-K, you represent nurses with a solid knowledge base in heart failure who can be consultants, clinical specialists, educators and managers of heart failure care. CHFNs were surveyed, they reported that certification opened the door to recognition, promotions, raises, and awards.

Since 2011, over 1,000 nurses have become Certified Heart Failure Nurses. It’s your turn to become certified and receive this prestigious mark of distinction.

CHFN
CHFN-K
The Mark of Distinction
Heart failure nurses are specialists with an exclusive interest in and passion for improving outcomes in patients with heart failure. With this passion comes the need to continuously grow in the field and improve patient care.

By becoming a CHFN or CHFN-K, you are committed to advancing the field; providing your patients and the heart failure community with the highest quality of care. In a study published in the American Journal of Nursing, certified nurses reported greater confidence when making clinical decisions. The examination validates your knowledge, experience and clinical judgment in diagnosing, treating and managing patients with heart failure. It is a great way of prioritizing your personal and professional development. CHFNs were surveyed, they reported that certification opened the door to recognition, promotions, raises, and awards.

Since 2011, over 1,000 nurses have become Certified Heart Failure Nurses. It’s your turn to become certified and receive this prestigious mark of distinction.

Tips for Certification Success
- Attend a Certification Review Course
- Review a Heart Failure Study Guide
- Attend a Certification Review Webinar
- Create a Study Group with Your Peers
- Review the AAHFN-CB Examination Content Outline

Visit AAHFN.org for a listing of suggested resources, study guides and sessions that are available to help assist in preparation for the exam.

Commitment to Yourself and Your Patients:
Why You Should Become a CHFN® or CHFN-K™
By becoming a CHFN or CHFN-K, you are committed to advancing the field; providing your patients and the heart failure community with the highest quality of care. In a study published in the American Journal of Nursing, certified nurses reported greater confidence when making clinical decisions. The examination validates your knowledge, experience and clinical judgment in diagnosing, treating and managing patients with heart failure. It is a great way of prioritizing your personal and professional development.

The CHFN or CHFN-K designation reflects your willingness to learn and adapt positivity to new evidence related to heart failure assessment, care planning, interventions/treatments and evaluation of care delivery.


Through our commitment to you, we strive to make your mark as a leader in the field. Become certified in the only heart failure nursing certification in the country.
CHFN or CHFN-K?

Are you a clinical nurse that provides direct care to patients with heart failure? Or, are you a non-clinical nurse who works in heart failure, but in an indirect capacity? Perhaps you conduct heart failure research, or you are a graduate/clinical instructor to college students in a heart failure specialty area, or you work in an industry whose business includes heart failure work? Read the eligibility criteria carefully to see which certification you are qualified to apply for. The examination is the same for CHFNs and CHFN-Ks.

Accessible Testing:

Where You Can Take the CHFN® and CHFN-K Exams

The CHFN and CHFN-K exams are offered in a paper format at the American Heart Association (AHA) Annual Scientific Sessions.

The CHFN and CHFN-K exams are offered through computer-based testing (CBT) at testing centers across the country.

Certification Testing Fees

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<th>Paper Exam at Annual Conference</th>
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| CHFN-K       | Your heart failure certification is valid for three (3) years. Before your third (3rd) anniversary you must renew your certification either by documenting your 40 heart failure continuing education hours and professional development or by retaking the certification exam.

For additional details of recertification requirements go to www.heartfailurecertification.com.

CHFN

• Hold a current, active RN license within a state or territory of the United States or the professional, legally recognized equivalent in another country and have practiced as a registered nurse for at least ten (10) years full-time or equivalent that equates to approximately 10,400 hours.
• Have a minimum of 1,200 hours of clinical practice working in a field of nursing caring for heart failure patients within the last two (2) years. Note: this requirement equates to approximately 25% of time in clinical practice of heart failure in the previous 2 years.
• Have completed 50 hours of continuing education within the last two (2) years, of which a minimum of 15 hours must be focused directly on care of patients with heart failure. Must be completed at the time the exam application is submitted.

CHFN-K

• Hold a current, active RN license within a state or territory of the United States or the professional, legally recognized equivalent in another country and have practiced as a registered nurse for at least ten (10) years full-time or equivalent that equates to approximately 10,400 hours.
• Have a BSN or equivalent bachelors degree plus 2,400 hours experience in your current role for at least ten (10) years full-time or equivalent that equates to approximately 10,400 hours.
• Have a minimum of 1,200 hours of clinical practice working in a field of nursing caring for heart failure patients within the last two (2) years. Note: this requirement equates to approximately 25% of time in clinical practice of heart failure in the previous 2 years.
• Have completed at least 30 hours of continuing education focused directly on care of patients with heart failure. Must be completed at the time the exam application is submitted.
• Be able to briefly explain in your current job how you indirectly touch patients with heart failure or complete some action in your role that is heart failure specific.

CHFN-K?

Are you a clinical nurse that provides direct care to patients with heart failure? Or, do you work in an industry whose business includes heart failure work? Read the eligibility criteria carefully to see which certification you are qualified to apply for. The examination is the same for CHFNs and CHFN-Ks.

Accessible Testing:

Where You Can Take the CHFN® and CHFN-K Exams

The CHFN and CHFN-K exams are offered in a paper format at the American Heart Association (AHA) Annual Scientific Sessions.

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For additional details of recertification requirements go to www.heartfailurecertification.com.

Renewing Your Certification

CHFN

Your heart failure certification is valid for three (3) years. Before your third (3) anniversary you must renew your certification either by documenting your 40 heart failure continuing education hours and professional development or by retaking the certification exam.

CHFN-K

Your heart failure certification is valid for three (3) years. Before your third (3) anniversary you must renew your certification either by documenting your 40 heart failure continuing education hours and professional development or by retaking the certification exam.

For additional details of recertification requirements go to www.heartfailurecertification.com.

“Taking the Heart Failure certification exam was one of the wisest decisions that I have made as a heart failure practitioner. Preparing for this exam forced me to truly understand the very complex pathophysiology of heart failure and the management of this condition. In turn I feel that because of this certification I am a much better nurse and able to guide and care for my patients.”

SUE HENKE

Orange, CA

“...the certification reflects specialized knowledge in the field. Certified nurses are desired.”

Hospital administrators understand that their certification reflects specialized knowledge in the field. Certified nurses are desired.

Reasons to Become a CHFN®

• Certified nurses have increased pay, reimbursement of test expenses and recognition (via credentials) of specialized knowledge in heart failure care and commitment to providing optimal patient care.

• Patient has better outcomes when care is provided by certified nurses. In a study of nurses certified in rehabilitation (CRRNs), length of patient stay was shortened by 6% for every 1% increase in certified nurses on the unit!

• CHFN and CHFN-K gain personal pride in accomplishment and informal commitment to providing heart failure care based on best practices and evidence-based practices.

For additional details of recertification requirements go to www.heartfailurecertification.com.

Top Five Reasons to Become a CHFN®

CHFN and CHFN-K receive formal recognition (via credential) of specialized knowledge in heart failure care and commitment to providing optimal patient care.

Choosing to obtain the CHFN certification demonstrated to my patients my commitment to having the specialized knowledge, skills and experience they deserve as I help them navigate living with heart failure.

CAROL SUDWIGMAN

Paris, TX

2 Nelson A, Powell-Cope G, Palacios P , et al. Nurse staffing and patient outcomes in inpatient rehabilitation (CRRNs), length of patient stay was shortened 6% for every 1% increase in certified nurses on the unit!

5 Moss A, O’Connor CM, Seward JB, et al. Symptomatic Improvement with Intensive and Home-Based Rehabilitation (MUSTT): A Randomized Clinical Trial.
