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THE ALPHABET SOUP OF ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING

By: Dianne Warmuth, MSN, RN, CNS & Jeremy Flowers, DNP, NP, CNS

THE ADVANCED PRACTICE COUNCIL (APC) is comprised of a diverse group of specialized care providers with advanced education. The groups involved in the APC includes Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Midwives, Nurse Educators and Nurse Anesthetists. We encourage any staff interested in pursuing an advanced degree or with an advanced degree to stop by one of our meetings. We meet the first Wednesday of the month from 0730-0830 in the ACR conference room at Hillcrest.

Goal of our council

To improve the health of patients and their families through interdisciplinary participation in clinical, educational, research and administrative activities using evidence-based practice.

Advanced practice providers usually hold certification in their field and may also obtain specialty certifications as well. Listed below is more information, focused on advanced practice nursing, related to certifications for advanced practice nurses.

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS's)

are licensed registered nurses who have graduated with a Master's or Doctorate in nursing as a CNS. They are expert clinicians in a specialized area of nursing practice. The specialty may be identified in terms of population, setting, disease or medical subspecialty, type of care or type of problem. In addition to providing direct patient care, CNS's influence care outcomes by providing consultation to nursing staff and implementing improvements in health care delivery systems. They coach, mentor and

train the nursing workforce. The Clinical Nurse Specialist utilizes evidence-based practice to assist with decreasing infection rates and other nursing sensitive indicators, coaching those with chronic illness and implementing change within the healthcare system. National certification is available in a few specialties including Adult-Gerontology (AGCNS-BC) through the American Nurses Credentialing Center, or Adult-Gerontology (ACCNS-AG), pediatrics (ACCNS-P) or neonatal (ACCNS-N) nursing through American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. There is a Perioperative certification (CNS-CP) available for CNS offered by the Competency & Credentialing Institute. Multiple other certifications were available but have been or are in the process of being retired that include but are not limited to: Adult Health, Adult Psychiatric Care, Child health, Child Psychiatric Care, Gerontology, Public Health, Oncology and Orthopedics.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA's) are



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is a Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist at UC San Diego Medical Center since 2005. She earned her BSN from Fresno State University and her MSN from California State University Long Beach. She is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). Her professional interests and clinical experience include trauma and transplant nursing. She is currently the Clinical Nurse Specialist for the PCU's at UC San Diego Hillcrest. She is the Chairperson for Nursing Quality Council and her current evidence-based practice focuses are in the areas of CAUTI/CLABSI prevention, patient/family needs and transplant education.



Jeremy Flowers, DNP, NP, CNS

Is a nurse practitioner in gastroenterology at UCSD Hillcrest. He joined UCSD in 1999. Jeremy holds certifications in 4 areas as a nurse practitioner; woman's health, geriatrics, family and urology. He is a member of American academy of Nurse practitioners.

advanced practice nurses who, with their advanced education, provide the full range of anesthesia and pain management services. CRNA's provide general anesthesia, regional anesthesia, local anesthesia and pain management. Nurse anesthesia graduate level educational programs range from 24-36 months depending on university requirements. CRNA's practice in every setting where anesthesia is delivered including hospitals, surgical suites and outpatient surgical centers just to name a few.

Certified Nurse Midwives

(CNM's) are licensed independent healthcare providers. Midwives are well-known for attending births, 53.3% of CNM's/CM's identify reproductive care and 33.1% identify primary care as main responsibilities in their positions. . Nurse Midwives provide care that is quite inclusive form women including primary care, gynecologic, family planning, preconception, prenatal, pregnancy care, postpartum care, care of the newborn and treatment of male patients with reproductive concerns. A graduate degree is required for entry into the profession as of 2010.

Nurse Practitioners (NP's) Nurse Practitioners are independent providers within a defined scope as identified in their delineation of privileges. They are nurses with an advanced degree and have clinical expertise in diagnosing and treating health conditions with a specific focus. Nurse Practitioners focus on health prevention and management. Their roles vary from primary to acute care or specialized focuses such as dermatology or neurology. NP's occupy a vital role in the expansion of affordable, quality care throughout the nation. Traditionally, an NP will continue training for two years beyond an undergraduate degree to complete and MSN. In addition to the MSN degree, further expansion of knowledge in research or evidence based practice exists with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing or Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees. Current options include Neonatology, Woman's Health, Family, Adult-Gerontology (primary care), Adult-Gerontology (acute care), Pediatrics

(primary care), Pediatrics (acute care), and Psychiatric-Mental Health.

There are several certification boards available for Nurse Practitioners through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Offers certifications in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care (AGACNP-BC), Adult-Gerontology Primary Care (AGPCNP-BC), Family (FNP-BC), Pediatric Primary Care (PPCNP-PC) and Psychiatric-Mental Health (PMHNP-BC).

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board offers two primary Nurse Practitioner certifications; Adult-Gerontology Primary care (AGNP-C) and Family (FNP-C). There is also a new specialty certification for Family NP in Emergency Care.

The American Association of Critical-Care offers certification as Adult-Gerontology Acute Care (ACNPC-AG). Neonatology (NNP-BC) and Women's Health (WHNP-BC) certifications are offered by the National Certification Corporation.

The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board offers two primary Nurse Practitioner Certifications: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (CPNP-PC) and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (CPNP-AC).

Nurse Practitioners also have the opportunity to obtain specialty certifications in several areas in addition to the primary certification/ credential. They include the following:

- Dermatology Nurse Practitioner (DCNP) is offered by the Dermatology Nurse Certification Board to nurse practitioners with national certification and experience in dermatology.
- Emergency Nurse Practitioner certification (ENP) is offered by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for certified family nurse practitioners. American Nurses Credentialing Center offers Emergency nurse practitioner (ENP-BC) through portfolio process for certified pediatric, family and adult-gerontology nurse practitioners.
- Nephrology Nurse Practitioner certification is offered by the

Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission. Certified Nephrology Nurse- Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) is available to nationally certified nurse practitioners with experience in nephrology.

- Oncology specialty certification is available to nurse practitioners by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation. Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP) is available to nurse practitioners with experience and education in oncology.
- Orthopedic Nurse Practitioner (ONP-C) is offered by the Orthopedic Nurse Certification Board to nurse practitioners who care for patients with musculoskeletal conditions.
- Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist (PMHS) is

offered by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board to advanced practice nurses certified in multiple specialties; family nurse practitioners, pediatric primary care nurse practitioners, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners and Clinical nurse specialists.

- Urology Nurse Practitioner is offered by the Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates. Certified Urologic Nurse Practitioner (CUNP) is open to nurse practitioners who are certified in a generalist area.

Physician Assistant (PA-C) are nationally certified and state-licensed medical professionals. They are allowed to fully practice medicine and prescribe medications in all 50 states and District of Columbia. Most

PA programs are between 24-36 months in addition to completing undergraduate education and require completion of a certifying exam. PA's work in a wide variety of settings from clinics to operating rooms. If you would like to learn more about the PA role please visit aapa.org.

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board	www.aanpcert.org
American Academy of Physician Assistants	www.aapa.org
American Nurses Credentialing Center	www.nursecredentialing.org
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses	www.aacn.org
Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates	www.cbuna.org
Competency & Credentialing Institute	www.cc-institute.org
Dermatology Nurse Certification Board	www.dnanurse.org
National Certification Corporation	www.nccwebsite.org
Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission	www.nncc-exam.org
Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation	www.oncc.org
Orthopedic Nurse Certification Board	www.oncb.org
Pediatric Nursing Certification Board	www.pncb.org