

The CNL Bulletin, an online newsletter of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC), features the latest news and information on the Clinical Nurse LeaderSM (CNL) initiative and the CNL[®] Certification Program.



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The 2009 CNL Summit

More than 400 nurse faculty, deans, chief nurse officers, physicians, practicing Clinical Nurse Leaders (CNLs), and students attended the 2009 CNL Summit which took place January 29-31, 2009 in New Orleans. Jointly sponsored by AACN and the Veteran's Health Administration Office of Nursing Services, the summit focused on the impact CNLs are having on quality and safety at the microsystem level across settings. Highlights included presentations titled *The CNL: Moving Evidence to Practice* by Sue Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, Senior

Advisor for Nursing, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; *Utilizing Business Methods to Improve Outcomes at the Microsystems Level* presented by Timothy Shea, FACHE, Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network; and *Quality Improvement and the CNL in Today's Healthcare Environment* by Deborah M. Nadzam, PhD, RN, FAAN, Practice Leader, Patient Safety Services, Joint Commission Resources, Inc. The presentations are posted on the AACN Web site at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNL/09cnlsummit.htm>.

AACN's CNL Steering Committee Approves Statement on Post-Master's CNL Certificate Program

The CNL Steering Committee reaffirms the concept of post-master's CNL programs for individuals who hold a master's degree in nursing that has prepared them for practice in another advanced generalist role or in an advanced nursing specialty. Post-master's students must successfully complete graduate didactic and clinical requirements of a master's CNL program through a formal graduate-level certificate or master's level CNL program. Post-master's students are expected to master the same outcome competencies as master's CNL students, including the Essential master's core competencies and the CNL competencies.

Courses may be waived if the individual's master's transcript indicates that he/she has successfully completed the CNL required course or its equivalent. Programs should be able to document waivers and exceptions for individual students through a gap analysis. In addition, graduate level content or courses in epi-

demiology, pharmacotherapeutics, physiology/pathophysiology, and health assessment is required and must be documented.

Post-master's CNL students are required to complete a minimum of 300 hours in a supervised clinical immersion practicum that provides the opportunity to practice in the CNL role. In addition, the post-master's CNL student must have completed the Required Clinical Experiences for the Clinical Nurse Leader. (Refer to AACN's white paper on *The Education and Role of the Clinical Nurse Leader* at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Publications/WhitePapers/ClinicalNurseLeader07.pdf>.)

The CNL Steering Committee will make further recommendations to advance the CNL role to AACN's Board of Directors by July 2009. For more information, contact Dr. Joan Stanley at jstanley@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 252.

Xavier University Hosted “Transforming Healthcare Delivery”

Regional Conference for Healthcare Leaders • Friday, November 21, 2008

As the cost of health care soars, concern for patient safety—and the quality and continuity of their care—remains foremost in the minds of all healthcare providers, stakeholders in quality, safety, and continuity of care joined nationally recognized speakers at a regional conference on “Transforming Health Care” held November 21, 2008 at the Cintas Center on the campus of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Presentations focused on serious healthcare issues, financial barriers, and solutions, opportunities that empower all providers to achieve the best outcomes in the care of all patients; and the “deeply human relationships that impact outcomes and quality” in a very complex healthcare system. A total of 182 individuals from 11 major hospital systems and one public health department (131 RNs, 38 graduate students, 13 non-nurse administrators, one physician, one CNS) from across Ohio, Kentucky and as far away as Wisconsin engaged in lively discussions. Specific topics included: the impact of the CNL role on quality, safety, patient outcomes, and cost savings, and transformational strategies that assist healthcare leaders in adapting the CNL role in their institutions along with regional opportunities for collaboration.

National speakers, including *Marjorie Wiggins*, an international leader in the transformation of healthcare, Vice President for Patient Care Services at Maine Medical Center; *Emerson Knowles*, a nationally known expert in finance associated with Smith Barney as an investment counselor; *Anne Roberts*, a nurse and visionary informatics expert; and *Dr. Dennis Kolb*, Medical Director for Tri-Health Hospitalist program, forecasted the future of healthcare as they spoke about the complexity of health care, financial issues, informatics issues, inter-professional relations, and the new CNL role.

Local and regional healthcare leaders and experts in transformation, including *Nancy Strassel*, Senior Vice President of the Greater Cincinnati Health Council; *Noble Maseru*, Health Commissioner, Cincinnati Health Department; *Susan McDonald*, Vice President, Patient Care Services, Bethesda North Hospital; *Cynthia Pearsall*, Vice President and CNO, Patient Care Services, Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster, Ohio; *Jeanette Criswell*, Vice President, Patient Care Services, Cincinnati VA Medical Center; *Jillian Jacob*, Clinical Nurse Leader, Cincinnati VA Medical Center; and *Christina Hericks*, Clinical Nurse Leader, Cincinnati VA Medical Center shared their challenges and vision in leading current transformation activities already occurring in the Midwest region. Physicians and nurses were able to earn 5.25 contact hours.

The conference was an outstanding success as participants left with strategies and plans for implementing the CNL within their institutions. Follow-up visits to the hospitals will be made by Xavier faculty and Dr. Cindy Sublett, Associate Director of Xavier’s CNL program, to assist hospitals in the transformation.

This program was supported by the Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services under grant #D09HP09356, Advanced Education Nursing Grant, \$809,090. Xavier’s nursing faculty is recognized for its expertise in teaching CNLs and Dr. Susan Schmidt, project director and chair of the nursing department, is appointed to AACN’s Commission on Nurse Certification (see www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/boc.htm.)

The Clinical Nurse Leader Association (CNLA)

The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL[®]) is the first new role in nursing in over 35 years. Conceptualized by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the CNL is a master’s-prepared advanced generalist serving as the lateral integrator for the healthcare team who facilitates, coordinates, and oversees care within the Microsystem and in collaboration with the Macrosystem.

The Clinical Nurse Leader Association (CNLA) was created to provide a national forum for Clinical Nurse Leaders to support, collaborate and celebrate our unique and evolving role in all practice settings. The CNLA serves to highlight the impact of the CNL on quality, safety, patient satisfaction, and cost reduction. Decreasing the length of stay through lateral integration, meeting or exceeding reportable standards of practice, and reducing non-refundable hospital acquired events are examples of how a CNL can add value to cost-containment efforts and improved patient outcomes.

The mission of the Clinical Nurse Leader Association is to provide a forum for members in all practice settings to collaborate, collect data, publish results, network, promote high standards of practice, maintain a professional presence, and stay abreast of issues affecting their practice. Please visit us at www.cnlassociation.org for further information and registration.

CNL Recertification



CNC is pleased to announce the new CNL Recertification Program. CNL certification is granted for a period of five years and must be renewed prior to the expiration date to maintain an active status. Recertification assures the public that the nationally certified CNL has maintained current and relevant knowledge of the CNL role.

For CNL recertification, the following is required:

- **CNL Certification**
- **RN Licensure**
Certificants must have a current unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse (RN). It is the responsibility of the certificant to notify the CNC when any restriction is placed on his/her RN license.
- **Professional Practice**
Applicants must attest to their employment status of a minimum 4,000 hours in the past five years in areas of advanced generalist clinical practice, nursing administration, nursing education, research and or consultation.
- **Contact Hours/Continuing Education**
Applicants must have earned a minimum of 75 contact hours relevant to the CNL or an advanced generalist nursing role – 25 of these contact hours must focus on quality and safety.
- **Outcomes and Professional Practice**
Applicants are requested to summarize how the end-of-program competencies and/or elements of the role outlined in AACN's white paper on *The Education and Role of the Clinical Nurse Leader* have been elements of on-going practice.
- **Documentation**
CNLs are responsible for maintaining records of their continuing education credits and may be required to substantiate these units during random audits. Certificants are encouraged to maintain an electronic portfolio. However, documentation may be submitted to the CNC electronically or in a hard copy format.

The recertification application should be filed with CNC no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration. All practice hours, contact hours, and graduate course work must be earned prior to the certificate expiration date to apply towards recertification – activities towards recertification must have occurred within the five-year recertification period.

To access the CNL recertification application, guidelines, checklist, and FAQs, visit <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/recert.htm>.

CNL Recertification Schedule

Recertification applications may be submitted any time prior to the due date if the certificant meets all criteria. Certificants renewing early are not penalized – the next recertification expiration date is based upon the original expiration date.

Date Certified	Certification Expiration	Application Due Date	Practice Hours Earned	Contact Hours/Continuing Education Earned	CNC Notification
2007 - Mar. 2008	Refer to certificate for specific date	30 days prior to expiration	Certification date - 30 days prior to expiration	Certification date - 30 days prior to expiration	Nov. 2010
Apr. 2008 - Dec. 2008	Dec. 31, 2012	Nov. 30, 2012	Certification date - Nov. 30, 2012	Certification date - Nov. 30, 2012	Nov. 2011
2009	Dec. 31, 2013	Nov. 30, 2013	Certification date - Nov. 30, 2013	Certification date - Nov. 30, 2013	Nov. 2012
2010	Dec. 31, 2014	Nov. 30, 2014	Certification date - Nov. 30, 2014	Certification date - Nov. 30, 2014	Nov. 2013
2011	Dec. 31, 2015	Nov. 30, 2015	Certification date - Nov. 30, 2015	Certification date - Nov. 30, 2015	Nov. 2014

CNL Certification Examination Dates and Fees

Testing for CNL certification is web-based and conducted onsite at the candidate's school of nursing. Program Directors are responsible for setting the testing date within the testing period and notifying Applied Measurement Professionals (wta@goamp.com) and CNC (cni@aacn.nche.edu).

Dates – Applications must be received by the deadline, not postmarked.

Testing Period	Application Deadline	Program Registration Deadline
July 20-August 21, 2009	June 19, 2009	June 19, 2009
November 30-December 18, 2009	October 20, 2009	October 20, 2009
January 11-January 29, 2010	December 4, 2009	December 4, 2009
April 19-May 14, 2010	March 19, 2010	March 19, 2010
July 19-August 13, 2010	June 18, 2010	June 18, 2010
November 29-December 17, 2010	October 29, 2010	October 29, 2010
January 10-January 28, 2011	December 3, 2010	December 3, 2010

Fees		
Initial application/testing		\$295
Re-testing: Complete exam (multiple-choice and simulation sections)		\$230
Re-testing: Multiple-choice section only		\$175
Re-testing: Simulation section only		\$175

CNL Certification Eligibility Waiver Continued for CNL Faculty

CNC has announced that faculty teaching in *existing* CNL educational programs may continue to apply for CNL certification through December 31, 2012. To meet the needs of CNL programs and faculty, the eligibility waiver was extended.

CNL faculty who meet the following criteria are eligible to sit for the CNL Certification Examination:

- Teach in an existing CNL education program;
- Hold Registered Nurse licensure; and

- Hold a graduate degree in nursing or a related healthcare discipline (such as healthcare administration or public health) from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

CNL faculty need only submit three forms along with payment to apply – CNL Certification Examination Application, CNL Standards of Conduct, and the CNL Eligibility Documentation Form. To access the required documents, go to <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/reqdocs.htm>.

CNL Online Discussions

AACN continues to support and maintain an online discussion group exclusively for students and graduates of CNL programs nationwide. This forum provides a communication platform to share experiences and resources, ask questions, and discuss issues of mutual interest with colleagues. The CNL online discussion group provides an opportunity for sharing practice issues as well as serving as a support mechanism. For more information or to join the discussion, CNL graduates and students should contact Horacio Oliveira at holiveira@aacn.nche.edu.

CNL Events

The University of Portland School of Nursing Presents...

2009 Leadership & Innovation Symposium

Transforming Your Organization to Meet the Future: Making the Case for Clinical Nurse Leaders

Saturday, July 18, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

University of Portland, Portland, Oregon

The full-day symposium focuses on how to successfully integrate the CNL by making the clinical, business, and translational research case for the role. It is designed to give nurse executives, nurse managers, working CNLs, students, and CNL educators the tools needed to implement the CNL role and the opportunity to collaborate with one another. National leaders, educators, and nurse executives in the implementation of the CNL role will be featured as well as active participants in the symposium. CNL students and CNL faculty are invited to submit abstracts for podium and poster presentations.

The call for abstracts, registration form, and more details are posted at <http://nursing.up.edu>.

Together we can make change – transforming health care through the CNL role!

CNL Merchandise

Celebrate CNL certification! CNL certification lapel pins and key chains are now available. The cost is \$25 for the lapel pin and \$20 for the key chain. In addition, you may now order from three different styles of wood frames for your certificate. To order, go to <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/merchandise.html>. Look for more CNL merchandise this summer including a CNL totebag!

The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) has produced a DVD about the implementation of the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL®) in the Veteran's Affairs Health Care System. Titled *Clinical Nurse Leader: Principles and Practice*, this 9-minute presentation includes interviews with CNLs, medical professors, nursing deans, students, preceptors, and nurse managers and other leaders. The DVD features a commentary from James Harris, VA Office of Nursing Services; Cathy Rick, CNO of the VA; and AACN Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Polly Bednash. The program emphasizes the value of the CNL role and its impact on the quality of patient care. DVDs may be ordered for \$8 each at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNL/vadvd.htm>.

NEW! CNC JOB BANK

CNC has launched an online job bank dedicated to the CNL. Employers and recruitment agencies have an opportunity to post positions of interest to CNLs and to reach the most qualified candidates. Job seekers may utilize this service free of charge to learn about current job openings.

Positions are posted for two months at a flat rate of \$199. Advertisers must submit a CNC Job Bank registration form per job announcement. The deadline to include, change or cancel job announcements is the 15th of the preceding month of the job posting. Ads are published the first business day of the month and are maintained on the CNC website for two months.

For more information, contact Tracy Lofty, CNC Director, at tlofty@aacn.nche.edu.

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