

# HOW TO DEVELOP A REVIEW COURSE FOR CNL EXAM



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# Objectives

**At the end of this concurrent session the participant will be able to:**

- 1) Establish the needs of CNL students for a review course**
- 2) Utilize AACN and CNC resources to design a CNL review course**
- 3) Design an interactive versus didactic review course**
- 4) Work with partners to design review course**

The logo features a large, stylized 'C' in a light green color that curves around the top and left sides of the letters 'CNL'. The letters 'CNL' are in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of 'CNL', the words 'Clinical Nurse Leader' are stacked vertically in a green, sans-serif font. Below 'CNL', the word 'CERTIFICATION' is written in a green, sans-serif font.

**CNL** Clinical  
Nurse  
Leader  
**CERTIFICATION**

**TRANSFORM. LEAD. EXPERIENCE.**

# What is CNL certification?

- CNL certification is a unique credential that recognizes graduates of Clinical Nurse Leader programs who have demonstrated accepted standards of practice.
- The CNL mark of excellence promotes safe, quality practice through ongoing requirements for personal and professional growth.

# Eligibility

## RN licensure

- Students may test prior to NCLEX exam

## Graduation from a CNL master's or post-master's degree program

- Students may test in their last term
- Waiver for CNL faculty (Dec. 2012)

# Certification Exam

- Computer-based
- Administered at the school of nursing
- Multiple choice and unfolding case studies
- 2 hour time limit per 2 sections
- CNC forwards exam results to candidate
- CNC forwards aggregate program exam results to CNL faculty contact
- **Format will change in April of 2012**

# Exam Resource Materials

- <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/pubs.htm>
  - Certification Exam Handbook (p12 on)
  - Sample Simulation Item  
[www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC)
  - Self Assessment Exam
  - AACN White Paper on *The Education and Role of the Clinical Nurse Leader*
  - Recommended Reading List
  - CNL Online Discussion Group  
To Join Email: [holiveira@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:holiveira@aacn.nche.edu)



**COLLABORATING, PLANNING &  
IMPLEMENTING A CNL REVIEW  
SESSION**

# Collaborating & Background



- Queens U partners w/ 2 major healthcare systems for CNL Program (CMC & Presbyterian).
- Team of 1 faculty from Queens and 1 rep from each healthcare sys formed.
- 3 members met every 1-2 weeks for planning review course for 1<sup>st</sup> cohort of 5 students
- All team members CNL certified
- Contacted numerous other programs regarding whether offer review course and specifics
- Reviewed materials/resources on AACN/CNL website

# What Decisions Would You Make?

- How many days for CNL review? 1? 5?
- Could not locate other 1 day review sessions
- Should you include basic test taking skills?
- Should review be interactive? Didactic? Both?
- What Should be the Outline? Or Basis for Review?
- How far in advance of actual certification date?
- How divide content among team members?

# Used Key Topics in Exam Handbook

## 1. Nursing Leadership (26)

- Horizontal Leadership (6)
- Effective Use of Self (5)
- Advocacy (4)
- Conceptual Analysis/Implementation CNL Role (5)
- Lateral Integration (6)



## 2. Clinical Outcomes Management (33)

- Illness/Disease management (9)
- Knowledge Management (8)
- Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (7)
- Evidence Based Practice (EBP) (9)

# Key Topics in Exam Handbook

## 3. Care Environment Management (31)

- Team Coordination (6)
- Healthcare Finance and Economics (4)
- Healthcare Systems/Organizations (5)
- Healthcare Policy (4)
- Quality Management/Improvement (7)
- Healthcare Informatics (5)



# Implementation

- 1 full day 2 weeks prior to certification exam
- Informal, interactive
- Started with basic test- taking skills
- 3 Leaders chose sections to facilitate based on expertise/knowledge/skills and strengths
- Also rotated so no 1 leader facilitating for long period.
- Topics from Exam Handbook reviewed about 30 min interactively
- Provided handouts and case studies

# Evaluation

- **100% pass rate on certification exam**
- Comments from 1<sup>st</sup> cohort (5 students)
  - ❖ Interactive, informal format excellent
  - ❖ Helped to have 3 different facilitators (“helped keep my attention”)
  - ❖ Going over simulation in class was very helpful
  - ❖ Focusing on roles of CNL (e.g. from white paper)
  - ❖ Concentrating on interdisciplinary team members and which ones to include helped.
  - ❖ Understanding how questions would be structured was important.

# Successes

- Worked as team with partners for CNL review (great team dynamics).
- Using Exam Handbook from AACN was helpful as outline for CNL review.
- Interactive versus didactic was successful
- Reviewing test taking skills, handouts, case studies were valuable
- Practicing simulation question and questions in multiple choice format were beneficial.

# What Might Be Changed in Future?

- This year will have same 1 day and another ½ day (optional) for:
  - 1) Further discussion of case studies & practice of more multiple choice and simulation questions
  - 2) Network with more CNL programs to discuss how they conduct review courses and success rate
  - 3) Add some additional CNL certified faculty or CNLs from our 1<sup>st</sup> cohort to assist in review course

# Who To Contact At CNC

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# Questions & Comments



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