APRN Education: Implementation of the Consensus Model

AACN Spring Annual Meeting
March 22, 2011  8:30–10:00 a.m.
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Objective

• Discuss the implications of the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation on certification and education
Requirements for Certification

» Follow established certification testing and psychometrically sound, legally defensible standards for APRN examinations for licensure

» Assess the APRN core and role competencies across at least one population focus of practice

» Assess specialty competencies separately from the APRN core, role, and population-focused competencies

» Be accredited by a national certification accreditation body

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Requirements for Certification (cont.)

» Enforce congruence (role and population foci) between the education program and the type of certification examination

» Provide a mechanism to ensure ongoing competence and maintenance of certification

» Participate in ongoing relationships that make processes transparent to boards of nursing

» Participate in a mutually agreeable mechanism to ensure communication with boards of nursing and schools of nursing

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Model for APRN Regulation

- Competencies
  - Identified by Professional Organizations (e.g., oncology, palliative care, CV)
  - CNP, CRNA, CNM, CNS in the Population context
  - APRN Core Courses: Patho/physiology, Pharmacology, Health/Physical Assessment

- Measures of competencies
  - Specialty Certification*
  - Licensure: based on education and certification**

* Certification for specialty may include exam, portfolio, peer review, etc.
** Certification for licensure will be psychometrically sound and legally defensible examination be an accredited certifying program.

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Certification

• Create new NP certification examinations
  » Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP
  » Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP

• FNP and WHNP certification examinations to include additional gerontology content

• CNS certification examinations
  » Adult-Gerontology CNS (new)
  » CNS certification examinations will test “across the continuum from wellness through acute care”
Certification

- Competencies
  - Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP
  - Adult-Gerontology CNS
  - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP
  - Recommended Competencies for Older Adult Care for FNP, WHNP, and Women’s Health/Gender Specific CNSs
Certification

• Target date for implementation of these new examinations 2013
• Continue to administer the separate ANP, ACNP, GNP, ACNS, and GCNS certification examination during the transition period
• Retire the separate certification examinations in 2014 or 2015
Implications for Educators

• Graduates must complete the education program that corresponds to the certification
  » Role and population
  » 500 clinical hours

• All APRNs must complete three separate comprehensive graduate-level courses in:
  » Advanced physiology/pathophysiology
  » Advanced health assessment
  » Advanced pharmacology

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Implications for Educators (cont.)

• Status of your program changes

• Students
  » Current
  » Future

• Transcripts
  » Degree conferred
  » Role and population
  » Course titles that reflect the content
Contact Information

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Questions?