

Heemstra, Sarah

From: Heemstra, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 1:46 PM
To: Heemstra, Sarah
Subject: Infection Prevention Champions Program: Certification and Education

Infection Prevention Champions Program



Dear Champion,

As gastroenterology professionals, we continuously need to look at our skill and knowledge level in order to provide our patients with the best of care. The American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCGN), The Certification Board of Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD) and SGNA provide gastroenterology nurses and associates with certification and higher level education programs to validate our knowledge, skills and abilities. This letter will provide detailed information to you and your co-workers on ways to expand your knowledge level through certification and SGNA educational programs, thereby improving patient care.

The American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology

The American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses, Inc. (ABCGN) is a volunteer non-profit organization. Its purpose is to maintain and improve the knowledge, understanding and skill of nurses in the fields of gastroenterology and gastroenterology endoscopy by developing and administering a certification program. The ABCGN Certification Exam meets the highest professional standards and is the only CGRN program accredited by ABNS ([American Board of Nursing Specialties](#)). ABCGN certification is open to Registered Nurses currently or recently engaged in GI/endoscopy. To qualify for certification, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. At the time of application, candidates must have been employed in clinical, supervisory, administrative, teaching/education or research capacities in an institutional or private practice setting for a minimum of two (2) years full-time, or its part-time equivalent of 4000 hours, within the past five (5) years in GI/endoscopy.
 - Work experience must be at the level the candidate is certifying (e.g., an LPN who has become an RN must have two years' experience as an RN prior to sitting for the CGRN designation regardless of the number of years of GI experience as an LPN.)
 - Full time industry nurses, whose focus is at least 40% clinical practice, education, or research, are eligible. Those whose focus is sales are not.
2. Each candidate is required to submit the contact information of two responsible practitioners in the specialty who can verify his/her work experience and professional qualifications.

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3. Each candidate is required to submit a copy of his/her current and unrestricted license as a Registered Nurse (RN) in the United States.

SGNA offers a GI/Endoscopy Nursing Review Course to assist nurses in preparation for the ABCGN examination. The one-and-a-half day course provides an overview of key areas related to GI/Endoscopy nursing practice. Tips on how to prepare are presented. Included with registration is the SGNA [GI/Endoscopy Nursing Review: Certification Study Manual](#). The SGNA [Gastroenterology Nursing: A Core Curriculum, 5th edition](#) is another one of many resources recommended for test preparation. Click [here](#) for additional information on the review course.

Certification will help you gain recognition for both your competence and your professionalism. Visit [ABCGN's website](#) for more information.

The Certification Board of Sterile Processing and Distribution

The Certification Board of Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc. (CBSPD) is a non-profit Certification Board which plans, develops and administers competency-based certification examinations for personnel performing cleaning, disinfection, sterilization and inventory management activities regardless of the setting. The mission of the CBSPD is to promote and encourage high standards of ethical and professional practice through a recognized, credible credentialing program that encourages the competency of personnel performing sterile processing, distribution, flexible endoscope reprocessing and related activities to promote safety. The CBSPD offers a GI Scope Certification Exam with the credential of Certified Flexible Endoscope Reprocessor (CFER). Only one of the following requirements must be met in order to qualify to take this examination:

1. Completion of 12 months of full-time employment or equivalent part time hours processing flexible endoscopes.
2. Completion of an Endoscopy Technician course with a minimum of 60 hours and a grade of 70 or higher and 3 months experience in processing flexible endoscopes.
3. Completion of 6 months of full-time employment or equivalent part-time hours processing flexible endoscopes and successful completion of an Endoscopy Training program of at least 8 hours in length.
4. Successful completion of an Endoscopy Training Program of at least 16 hours.
5. Successful completion of an Endoscopy Training Program of at least 24 hours and relevant allied health experience (e.g., Nurse, surgical technician).
6. Sales representative to GI/Endoscopy for one year.

Become a Certified Flexible Endoscope Reprocessor! Certification provides internationally recognized competency-based measurable standards to ensure safe and effective levels of practice. Click this link for additional information from CBSPD <https://www.sterileprocessing.org/qi.htm>

SGNA Associates and Advanced Associates Programs

The SGNA Associates Program and Advanced Associates Program are designated for Associates and Technicians. Associates will gain the core knowledge of the GI/endoscopy specialty and work setting. The Advanced Associates program provides a higher level of recognition through advanced study tips and methods. Both programs provide a certificate of completion.

Enhance your level of professionalism! Receive validation of your skills and knowledge. Integrate yourself as a valuable team member in the GI/endoscopy setting. Click this link for additional information regarding SGNA's Associates and Advanced Associates program <https://www.sgna.org/Education/Associates-Technicians>.

As gastroenterology nurses and associates, we are committed to excellence for our patients and ourselves. Studies regarding healthcare professionals who have become certified or received higher level education show direct correlation with not only better patient care but also employee satisfaction and professional accomplishment. Why not take advantage of the educational opportunities within your reach!

[Requirements](#) should either be emailed to Champions@sgna.org or faxed to 312-673-6694 as due. The the upcoming assignments are as follows:

1. Continue to develop and implement infection prevention education for your peers (total of 120 minutes)
2. Seek opportunities to educate yourself on infection prevention topics (total of 180 minutes).

These bi-monthly letters will be [archived](#) for you to access as needed. As always, SGNA is available for any questions or difficulties you may have.

Sincerely,
The SGNA Infection Prevention Work Group

References:

ABNS - American Board of Nursing Specialties. (n.d.). Retrieved November 2, 2014, from <http://www.nursingcertification.org/accreditation.html>

ABCGN Certification Center. (n.d.). Retrieved November 2, 2014, from <http://registration.abcgcn.org/>

CBSPD GI Scope Exam. (n.d.). Retrieved November 2, 2014, from <https://www.sterileprocessing.org/gi.htm>

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