

# ABCC DNP Certification: Diplomate in Comprehensive Care

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# Council for the Advancement of Comprehensive Care (CACCC)

- Founded in 2000
- Consortium consists of distinguished academic and health policy leaders
- CACCC programs are supported by grants from foundations and health care organizations
  - Macy Foundation and Arthur Vining Davis

# CACC Mission

- To develop and promulgate the clinical doctoral role and
- To develop measurable standards of practice through certification

# American Board of Comprehensive Care

- CACC subcommittee for certification
- Membership includes doctorally prepared APNs

# Why ABCC DNP Certification?

- Provides a distinction between the DNP with clinical expertise from the DNP with expertise in
  - Health policy
  - Administration
  - informatics, etc.
- National, professional standard to serve as validation of the differential clinical practice competencies of the DNP graduate

# Why Now?

- Rapid expansion of new and variable DNP programs
- New degree, with emergence of new roles in advanced practice

# Certification Challenges

- Interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration in test development
- Changing landscape of health professional education
- Impending shifts in health care delivery systems
- Flexibility to continue to evolve the process as all systems continue to evolve

# Test Development Process

- CACC put out a call for proposals from several testing organization
- CACC reviewed all submissions
- National Board of Medical Examiners offered the best product

After a careful review of three proposals from test developers, CACC established collaboration with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to develop the ABCC DNP Examination, which is comparable in content, similar in format and measures the same set of competencies and applies similar performance standards as Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)

# NBME

- Expertise in rigorous testing for licensure and certification for health professionals
- Computer-based case simulations (CCS)
- MCQ examination test bank for general undifferentiated clinical practice already developed and in use

# Results of First Examination

- Fifty percent of candidates passed the first certification exam in Comprehensive Care for Doctors of Nursing Practice
- Diplomates in Comprehensive Care
- The next certification exam is scheduled for October 2009.

# American Board of Comprehensive Care (ABCC)

- Certification subcommittee of CACC
- Responsibilities
  - Review applicant credentials to determine examination eligibility requirements are met
  - Register approved candidates for the examination
  - Provide tutorial and orientation materials for candidates
  - Distribute score reports

# Eligibility Requirements to Sit for ABCC Exam

- National certification as an advanced practice nurse
- Recognition or licensure by a state board of nursing as an advanced practice nurse
- Earned DNP degree

# Diplomate Status

- Honorific distinction for those who pass the ABCC DNP examination
- Diplomate in Comprehensive Care by the American Board of Comprehensive Care

# Benefits of Diplomates in Comprehensive Care (DCC)

- Recognition of successful completion of the ABCC exam for clinical doctorates
- Invitation to annual CACC meeting
- Invitation to induction ceremony at annual CACC meeting
- Distinctive DCC pin

# More Benefits of DCC

- DCC membership certificate
- Paid subscription to *Clinical Scholars Review: The Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice*
- Complimentary copy of *Case Studies: The Doctor of Nursing Practice: Setting a New Standard in Health Care*

# DNP Examination

- Competency-based examination in cross site, comprehensive care across the lifespan
- One part of the broader portfolio of DNP graduates who seek credentialing for practice

# Examination Purpose

To determine if a clinician possesses and can apply the knowledge and understanding of clinical science considered essential for the unsupervised practice of comprehensive care.

# Examination Emphasis

- Primary emphasis in on patient management in ambulatory setting
- Inpatient management is also represented
- Selected clinician tasks
- Clinical problem solving
- Incorporating applied basic and clinical science concepts

# Examination Design

- Dimension One
  - Normal conditions
  - Disease Categories
- Dimension Two
  - Clinical tasks
    - History
    - Physical
    - Diagnostics
    - Treatment
    - Mechanism of disease

# Examination Perspective: Undifferentiated Clinician

- Member of an independent group practice
- Affiliated with a number of managed care organizations
- Has regularly scheduled office hours.
- Admit patients to a 400 bed regional hospital that provides care for the urban and outlying rural community

# Exam Format

- **Multiple Choice Questions**
  - Measures knowledge
  - Documentation of cognitive outcomes
- **Computerized Case Scenarios**
  - Most complex examination
  - May be a list of options or free text

# Multiple Choice Section

- Multiple-choice test items
- Divided into blocks
- 60 minutes to complete each block
- Normal laboratory values table available

# Computerized Case Scenarios

- Measure skills
  - Information gathering
  - Critical thinking
  - Decision making process
- Timed
  - How to handle a case within a certain time frame
- Presents a scenario an interactive manner
- Asks clinically relevant questions
- Answers determine the next question
  - Scenario branches out

# Computer Delivery

- Computer interface features include integration of audio and video into test items
- Clickable icons for marking questions to be reviewed
- Clock indicating time remaining
- Help application

# Sample Item

- 43 year old teacher, who is mother of three children, comes to the office for evaluation of high blood pressure. An elevated BP was first detected one week ago during a routine screening at a health fair. During examination today her BP is 145/95 mm Hg.

# Which of the following is the most appropriate next step?

- Advise her to monitor her BP at home two times a day and return to the office in 6 months
- Ask her to return for reexamination after her next menstrual cycle
- Ask her to return for reexamination in 2 weeks
- Ask her to return for reexamination in 4 months
- Measure her BP after she exercises for 5 minutes

# More Samples

- Visit the [abcc.dnpcert.org](http://abcc.dnpcert.org)

# Discussion