

## **New Renewal by Synergy CERPs Fact Sheet**

### ***What is Renewal by Synergy CERPs and how will it affect certification renewal?***

Renewal by Synergy CERPs is a new renewal program which integrates the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care. As a result, CERP (Continuing Education Recognition Point) categories, definitions and number of CERPs required per category will change. The total number of required CERPs per renewal period remains the same (100); and the actual CERPs recognized are largely the same.

The current Renewal by CERPs program was established prior to the development of the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care (Synergy Model). While the Synergy Model has been the framework for AACN Certification exams since 1997, the model has not yet been integrated into the Renewal by CERPs Programs. This integration will provide continuity between certification and recertification and align more equitable emphasis on Clinical Judgment between certification and recertification programs.

Many CCRNs were certified prior to the development of the Synergy Model as the organizing framework for AACN Certification. It makes sense for all certificants to be familiar with the Synergy Model and how it applies to their practice. The intention is for the Synergy Model to offer more meaningful recertification requirements, to better prepare nurses for the future, as well as to provide consistency between certification and recertification programs.

### ***When will the new Synergy CERPs requirements become effective?***

The new CERP program went into effect January 2007, with a 3-year implementation phase. Current certificants may opt to renew using either the current CERPs program or the new Synergy CERPs program until January 2010; after that date, all certificants, new and renewing, will be required to use the new Renewal by Synergy CERPs, unless they are renewing by exam.

### ***What is changing?***

The CERP categories, definitions and percentage weight will change. The new CERP categories (A, B and C) will reflect the eight Synergy Model Nurse Competencies grouped into three categories by similarity. CERPs will be required in all three categories.

### ***What are the new CERP categories and components?***

Category A = Clinical Judgment, Clinical Inquiry

Category B = Advocacy/Moral Agency, Caring Practices, Response to Diversity, Facilitation of Learning

Category C = Collaboration, Systems Thinking

### ***What are the new percentage weights for each required Category?***

60% required for Category A

10% required for Category B

10% required for Category C

20% choice

***What recertification programs will be affected by the change?***

CCRN<sup>®</sup> and PCCN<sup>®</sup> certificants will primarily be affected. The requirements for CCNS<sup>®</sup>, CMC<sup>®</sup> and CSC<sup>®</sup> will not change, but some of the language will be updated to integrate the Synergy Model.

***Given that 20% of Renewal by Synergy CERPs (20 CERPs) is left to personal choice, what are the minimum and maximum CERP allotments per category?***

<b>CERP Category</b>	<b>Minimum # of CERPs</b>	<b>Maximum # of CERPs</b>
Category A	60	80
Category B	10	30
Category C	10	30

***What is not changing?***

Renewal by Synergy CERPs will still be based on the CERP program, which will include ongoing learning and other activities. A total of 100 CERPs are still required for the 3-year certification period. Certificants will continue to sign honor statements at renewal time, and a percentage of renewal applicants will be audited to assure compliance with the continuing competence requirements.

***Where can we learn more about the new Renewal by Synergy CERPs?***

The AACN Certification Corporation web site ([www.certcorp.org](http://www.certcorp.org)) features detailed information about Renewal by Synergy CERPs. Under *What's New*, click on *CCRN and PCCN Renewal by Synergy CERPs to be Implemented in January 2007*. Scroll down and find a number of resources including a Fact Sheet; a list of the Nurse Characteristics of the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care and how they relate to the new Categories (A, B, and C); a PowerPoint slide program with narration that describes the new program and gives examples of topics and activities that count for renewal (takes about 13 minutes); the new Renewal Handbook with all the details, and a quick reference list of topics and activities counting for each Category. A copy of the revised Renewal Handbook will be mailed to certificants 4 months prior to their renewal date. We have allowed plenty of time to implement these changes to provide opportunities for certificants to ask questions about the Renewal by Synergy CERPs program.

**Comparison of Current and New Requirements**

<b>Certifications</b>	<b>Current Requirements per Renewal Period</b>	<b>New Requirements per Renewal Period</b>
<b>CCRN/PCCN</b>	<b>100 CERPs Total</b>	<b>100 CERPs Total</b>
	25 Category A	60 Category A
	75 Choice (Category A or O)	10 Category B
		10 Category C
		20 Choice (Category A, B or C)
<b>CMC/CSC</b>	<b>25 CERPs Total</b>	<b>No change</b>
	25 Category A	25 Category A (Clinical Judgment only)
<b>CCNS</b>	<b>60 CERPs Total</b>	<b>No change</b>
	15 Category A	15 Category A – (Clinical Judgment only)
	45 Optional within Category A	45 Optional within Category A (Clinical Judgment and Clinical Inquiry)