

PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSING – BOARD CERTIFIED (PMH-BC) CERTIFICATION

WHO ISSUES THE CERTIFICATION?

The [American Nursing Credentialing Center](#) (ANCC), a subsidiary of the [American Nurses Association](#) (ANA).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

To promote excellence in mental health nursing and health care through credentialing programs.

workcred
an affiliate of ANSI



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
GEORGE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY

WHAT IS THE CAREER LEVEL OF THE CERTIFICATION AND WHO IS IT GEARED TO?

This certification is entry level into the mental health nursing specialty.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITES FOR THE CERTIFICATION?

The [PMH-BC](#) requires the applicant to hold a current registered nurse license, have practiced for two years as a registered nurse, and have completed at least 2,000 hours of clinical practice and 30 hours of continuing education within the last three years.

WHAT IS THE COST AND STRUCTURE OF THE CERTIFICATION'S EXAM(S)?

The PMH-BC has a 150 multiple-choice question exam, made up of 125 scored questions and 25 pretest questions that are not scored, in four competency areas: assessment and diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation. The cost of the exam depends on whether an applicant is a member of ANA or other professional associations. The cost for ANA members is \$295, American Psychiatric Nurses Association members pay \$220, and the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses pays \$340. Individuals who are not members of any of the professional associations pay \$395.

WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

National.

IS THE CERTIFICATION ACCREDITED?

Yes, by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification.

HOW LONG IS THE CERTIFICATION VALID?

It is valid for five years.

IS THERE A PROCESS FOR RENEWING THE CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION?

The certification can be renewed by taking specified professional development courses and practice activities.

CAN THE CERTIFICATION BE REVOKED?

Yes, the certification can be revoked for a variety of reasons including: failure to maintain a professional license, falsification of information, cheating on the certification exam, failure to comply with stipulations of ANA's "Code of Ethics for Nurses," and displaying conduct unbecoming of the profession.

IS THE CERTIFICATION LINKED TO LICENSURE?

No.

HOW DOES THE CERTIFICATION RELATE TO OTHER ANCC CERTIFICATIONS OR THOSE OF OTHER CERTIFICATION BODIES?

The PMH-BC is a specialty practice certification for registered nurses, and is one of the 12 ANCC registered nurse specialty certifications. In addition, ANCC has five advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) certifications used for regulatory purposes by the individual state boards of nursing.

WHAT ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS OR INDUSTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE OR USE THE CERTIFICATION?

Health care systems throughout the U.S.

ARE THERE ANY COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THEY PREFER OR REQUIRE THE CERTIFICATION?

Individual health care facilities may require a registered nurse providing care to psychiatric-mental health patients to hold this certification.

WHAT OCCUPATIONS USE THE CERTIFICATION?

All mental health nursing positions use this certification.

DOES ANCC OFFER TRAINING MATERIALS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAM?

ANCC provides candidates with the test content outline, a list of reference books and articles, and sample test questions and answers.