



Frequently Asked Questions

UCNS Certification/Accreditation for Neurocritical Care

The United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (UCNS) has prepared answers to questions that may arise regarding the recent American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approval of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology's (ABPN) application to offer a Neurocritical Care (NCC) certification. This document will be updated as other questions arise.

Certification

Will the UCNS continue to offer NCC certification examinations after ABMS approval of the ABPN's application?

*The UCNS has been offering certification for physicians in the subspecialty of NCC since 2007. The UCNS is committed to its continued support of the subspecialty and will continue business as usual for NCC including, but not limited to, offering the **2019 UCNS Neurocritical Care Certification Examination** as scheduled.*

Can I continue my UCNS NCC certification?

*The UCNS is offering the **UCNS NCC Recertification Examination** in December 2018 as scheduled for those diplomates who have certificates expiring this year. After 2018, all UCNS diplomates, including **those in NCC**, may continue their UCNS certifications through the new continuous certification process that will launch in 2020. With the new continuous certification process, UCNS diplomates will no longer be required to take a high-stakes recertification examination to maintain certification. Instead they will participate in activities and short assessments that promote life-long learning related to their subspecialty.*

I am currently UCNS-certified in NCC. Will I need to certify in NCC again once the new ABPN examination is completed?

*Certification in NCC is voluntary. Current UCNS diplomates may continue their NCC certification through the **UCNS continuous certification process** that is currently under development. UCNS certification will not automatically transfer to the newly created ABMS NCC subspecialty certification; however, the availability of NCC certification through ABPN does not invalidate your UCNS certification in any way.*

I have completed a UCNS-accredited NCC training program, but my primary ABMS specialty examination (Internal Medicine, Surgery, or Pediatrics) was not included in the eligibility criteria for the ABPN NCC. Will I still be eligible to sit for the UCNS NCC certification examination?

*Yes, the UCNS general eligibility criteria for NCC includes applicants who have completed a **UCNS-accredited NCC training program** and are diplomates in good standing of any of the following ABMS boards: Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Neurology, Neurologic Surgery, Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, or who possess equivalent certification by the Royal College of Physicians Surgeons of Canada. Applications for the next UCNS NCC Certification Examination will be available on April 1, 2019, and the exam will take place in December 2019.*

Will ABMS certification result in better reimbursement than UCNS certification?

No. Certification is not tied to reimbursement. Reimbursement is tied to taxonomy codes that are approved by the National Uniform Claim Committee. The UCNS and the American Academy of Neurology were successful in obtaining a taxonomy code approved for NCC (2084A2900X) in 2016.

Will my institution continue to recognize my UCNS certification?

*UCNS certification has been the recognized certification for NCC since 2007. The UCNS will continue to uphold the high standards of its certification examinations and the peer oversight of the process. Educate your institution, department chairs, chief medical officers, and credentialing committees about UCNS certification through distribution of the **UCNS Certification Recognition Document**. If additional information is needed, please **contact the UCNS** and we are happy to speak directly to the appropriate individual(s) at your institution.*

How can I find out more about the ABPN certification requirements?

*Initial proposed requirements were outlined on the **application** to ABMS and in the **ABPN press release**. As final requirements are developed and announced, the details will be available on the **ABPN website** or by contacting the ABPN at **questions@abpn.com**.*

Who should I contact at the UCNS if I have additional questions relating to UCNS NCC certification?

*Information can be found on the **UCNS website** or contact Todd Bulson, Senior Manager, Certification at (612) 928-6067 or **tbulson@ucns.org**.*

Accreditation

Will the UCNS continue to accredit NCC training programs?

*Yes. The UCNS has been offering accreditation for NCC training programs since 2007 and will continue to support and accredit **NCC fellowship training programs**. The **UCNS accreditation criteria and program requirements for NCC** were established by the subspecialty sponsoring organizations (Neurocritical Care Society and American Academy of Neurology's Critical Care and Emergency Neurology Section) to standardize the training in NCC fellowship programs. The process has the oversight of the **UCNS Accreditation Council** who are experts nominated by the AAN, Child Neurology Society, Professors of Child Neurology, Association of University Professors of Neurology, and the American Neurological Association.*

Our NCC fellowship program is UCNS-accredited. Will we need to reaccredit through the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)?

*Accreditation, like certification, is a voluntary process. UCNS-accredited **NCC training programs** may continue their accreditation through the UCNS and new applications may be submitted. A proposal from ABPN for ACGME recognition of NCC has not yet been approved.*

My UCNS-accredited training program has fellows enrolled who are diplomates of an ABMS board not included in the ABMS-approved application (Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics). Will they still be eligible to sit for the UCNS NCC certification examination?

*Yes, the UCNS **general eligibility criteria for Neurocritical Care** includes applicants who are diplomates in good standing of any of the following ABMS boards: Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Neurology, Neurologic Surgery, Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, or who possess equivalent certification by the Royal College of Physicians Surgeons of Canada. The next **UCNS NCC Certification Examination** will take place in 2019.*

Who should I contact at the UCNS if I have additional questions relating to UCNS accreditation of NCC training programs?

*Information can be found on the **UCNS website** or contact Amanda Carpenter, Senior Manager, Accreditation at (612) 928-6065 or acarpenter@ucns.org.*