

medical-surgical nursing—
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[Home](#) > [About MSNBC](#) > [President's Message](#)

President's Message ^[1]

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Motivated for Life: Certified Nurses and Lifelong Learning

Dear Nurse Colleagues,

As you know, lifelong learning and continuing competence have always been intertwined in nursing. By earning your CMSRN or CCCTM credential, you've demonstrated that for you, they are a top priority.

For that, I applaud you. ®

Medical-surgical nursing and care coordination and transition management (CCTM) are more complex today than ever before. People are living longer with a resultant increase in patients with more complex and chronic illnesses.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2017), half of all Americans have at least one chronic illness, and almost one in three have multiple chronic conditions.

These are mind-boggling statistics, so it's essential that we as nurses have a solid understanding of our constantly evolving practice. We also must hone our critical thinking skills so we can handle every challenging situation that comes our way.

Learning: The Panoramic View

When you choose lifelong learning, you've taken the long view. You've acknowledged that learning is not stagnant or finite, but constantly evolves throughout your life and career.

We've got many tools to choose from, including reading professional journals and publications, obtaining contact hours, attending nursing conferences, and completing academic course work. Participating in any of these activities increases your nursing knowledge and expertise.

Which brings us to the next choice, and one you've already made: to gather all this information and accomplish a single definitive goal that signifies excellence – your certification.

No doubt, earning your credential is one of the single, most powerful steps you've taken in your lifelong learning journey. And as you know, continuing that learning takes a village. Membership in the [Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses \(AMSUN\)](#) [2] and the [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing \(AAACN\)](#) [3], can help support every aspect of your professional growth, and you get to meet some great friends and colleagues on the way.

Which brings us to your next important step: recertification!

Recertification Matters

Because it's so valuable to your career, MSNCB's Board of Directors and the MSNCB staff have dedicated themselves to making the recertification process as easy as possible.

In the last few years, we've given you the Online Tracker, your new best friend. If you haven't already discovered this wonderful tool, you're going to want to spend some quality time together.

You can enter your contact hours, academic courses, preceptor/mentoring activities and other continuing education activities into the Tracker at your convenience. This helps you continuously monitor your progress while you prepare to recertify.

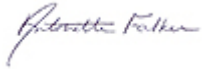
Visit the [CMSRN Tracker](#) [4] or the [CCCTM Tracker](#) [5].

Their Health is Your Reward

Taking the time and initiative to complete contact hours, read professional journals, and obtain national certification as a CMSRN or CCCTM should be a part of every nurse's journey in lifelong learning. You choose to do those things because you're dedicated to the health of your patients and communities. Keep the ball rolling and find ways you can continue to be the best nurse you can be through your commitment to learning and recertification.

Feels good, doesn't it?

Sincerely,



Antoinette Falker

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). *Chronic Disease Prevention System*. Retrieved January 2, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/prevention.htm>^[6].

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Affiliate Organizations

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- [3] <http://www.aaacn.org/>
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- [6] <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/prevention.htm>