

Message from the President ^[1]

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Mimi Haskins, MS, RN, CMSRN

I hope the new year is off to a great start for you and all of our CMSRNs! With the holidays behind us, I thought it would be the perfect time to let you know what's in store this year for CMSRNs and MSNCB.

Honoring Outstanding Units

First, I want to tell you about my experience presenting the first [AMSNCB PRISM Award](#) ^[2]™, a new award that honors exemplary medical-surgical nursing units. AMSNCB Director Robin Hertel and I had the pleasure of giving the award to the 41/42 Hematology, Oncology, Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit of The University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, KS, in November. The nursing staff and leaders were so excited about the award and Robin and I were deeply moved to be a part of their joyful celebration. If you'd like to see photos and read more about that great day, [click here](#) ^[3].

I encourage all of you to [look at the PRISM application](#) ^[4] and talk to your colleagues and managers about applying. It is a prestigious award and one you will be talking about for a long time. You all do a great job every day, why not get recognized for it?

Educating State Boards about Certification

I am also excited to share with you that MSNCB is supporting the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN) in their advocacy endeavors to educate state boards of nursing on the merits of accepting specialty certification as evidence of continuing education (CE) and professional competency.

The purpose of this project is to promote acceptance of registered nurse specialty certification as a way to meet CE and continued competency (CC) requirements and to encourage employers to recognize and promote specialty certification within their RN workforce.

There are currently 22 states that recognize RN specialty certification for CE/CC, and efforts will now focus on five more states that mandate CE or CC requirements. Future endeavors include encouraging the 17 states that presently do not mandate CE/CC requirements to join in with their fellow boards of nursing. [Click here to read about the call](#) [5] from MSNCB to recruit CMSRN advocates to assist in BCEN's effort.

Impact of the Affordable Care Act

One of the issues that will be on the Board's agenda at our spring meeting in March, is the changing role of the med-surg nurse with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

As patient care shifts from the nursing units to observation units, we want to look at what we as a Board need to keep in mind to assure that the work being done is applicable for certification/recertification. As we move forward with this, we will keep you informed and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to email us at msncb@msncb.org [6].

Spread the Word about Certification

Lastly, I want to encourage everyone to get certified or recertified and to encourage your colleagues to do the same. In the days ahead as we deal with the impact of the ACA on our practice and employment, specialty certification can be the game changer. Not only will it give you as an individual more credibility, but also your patients and employers will benefit because the research demonstrates that specialty-certified nurses provide high quality, safe, and evidence-based care.

Warmest regards!

Mimi

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[5] <https://msncb.org/Specialty-Nursing-Certification-Advocacy-Project-Call-Action>

[6] <mailto:msncb@msncb.org>