



# ASMB CBN<sup>®</sup> C.A.R.E.



## Volume 3, 2015

### -IMPORTANT DATES -

#### -May 1-

Online Registration Opens for July CBN Exam

#### -June 1-

Early Registration Deadline for July CBN Exam

#### -June 25-27-

Obesity Week-End in Las Vegas

#### -June 29-

Regular Registration Deadline for July CBN Exam

#### -July 11 - August 8 -

CBN July Exam Window

#### -November 2-7 -

Obesity Week

## Letter from the CBN Chair



Welcome! I have a good deal of exciting news to share, which are developed with more detail throughout the newsletter. First, we have worked with Professional Examination Services, a credentialing consultant, for the last 11 years. They have been indispensable to many critical aspects in the development and maintenance of an examination and certification program as well as in handling the registration and testing site coordination for our examination. We are thankful for their many years of support. However, they have elected to change their strategic plan to focus on service for larger certification programs. As we have many exciting challenges ahead for the next few years (e.g. practice analysis review, applying for accreditation, international extension, ...), we carefully searched for a new certification partner. We are excited to announce that we have contracted with Applied Measurement Professionals Inc. (AMP), who offer the whole range of certification services. We have included an introduction to AMP overall in this addition. Second, I want to thank all who have completed the Perceived Value of Certification Tool (PVCT) survey. The results will help us better understand your needs. More than 450 bariatric nurses completed the survey. Third, I would like to thank Ju-Jun Chou, a nurse from Taiwan who shared in this issue her unique journey to be a CBN. Fourth, I would like to thank Dr. Walter Pories for allowing the inclusion of one of his original cartoons in our newsletter. Fifth, the CBN will be launching the Distinguished Certified Bariatric Nurse Award this year at Obesity Week. Stay tuned for more details. Finally, if you come to Obesity Week in November, please stop by the CBN booth. All of us on the CBN Certification Program Committee and staff would be honored to meet you and discuss your experience as a CBN and how we can serve you better.

Thank you,  
William Gourash, MSN, CRNP

## My Experience As An International CBN

I have now been a Bariatric Surgery Case Manager for seven years. Before that I was a Nurse Practitioner in the surgical ward for ten years. There is a big difference between the two functions, and it took me some time to adapt my attitude to care for bariatric patients. It felt like there were still many things I could learn about bariatric patients care and I decided to learn more. This took me to the ASMB website where I discovered that in America there is a training tailored to nurses specialized in caring for bariatric patients, and that they can even be certified in the field. Unfortunately, testing and certification can only be done inside the United States. So, I looked for the option closest to Taiwan and flew to Guam to pass the test. I failed on my first attempt; although I did well when asked about the nursing and medical care of patients, I had some weaknesses regarding Outreach and Program Administration. Since information about these topics is unavailable in Taiwan, I enrolled in the online course that prepares for the CBN test. It was very helpful. They provide you with handouts and slides so that you can review and practice at will. Moreover, since it is so relevant to my work it was also very interesting and I greatly enjoyed the lessons. I returned to Guam and passed the test on my second trial, becoming the first CBN from a non-English speaking country. I am honored to have the CBN Certification and I will train more bariatric nurses in Taiwan in order to provide a better service to our bariatric patients.

*-Ju-Jun Chou, CBN, Taiwan*

## New Certification Consultant

The Certified Bariatric Nursing Committee is pleased to announce that we have entered a partnership with a new test examination company, Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP). AMP has more than 30 years of experience in guiding over 100 organizations in professional assessment and certification program development and test administration. Using the latest technology combined with personal service, they are dedicated to providing “Technology That Works and People Who Care”.

Improvements which will be seen include an expanded test window for scheduling examinations from the current two weeks to five weeks, starting with the July 2015 examination. This increased flexibility is made possible because AMP owns over 200 nationwide testing centers, which will be used as part of the arrangement. In addition, expansion to international testing centers will be also be supported by AMP.



*“But Doctor, if bariatric surgery is the most effective treatment for my diabetes, why didn’t you mention it?”*

The CBN team is busy with the transition, and the next CBN examination in July 2015 will be administered by AMP. Online registration for the July examination will start on May 1, via the ASMBS website. More information can be found in the Candidate Handbook, which has been significantly revised to reflect the changes with the new testing process.



Over the next year and beyond, AMP will work with the CBN Program to update our Practice Analysis and collaborate on our Accreditation process. These tasks will require CBN representatives from across the country, and we will be asking for your assistance as we move forward. We are excited to start this journey with our new partners, and invite you along as a CBN candidate or as a volunteer in the process.

## Behind the Scenes on a CBN Committee—Ann Couch

The Policy and Procedure Subcommittee (P&P) is charged with developing operational policies for the CBN committee. We are a resource to other sub-committee members in developing their policies as well. In preparation for national accreditation, all policies are required to be in writing, and reviewed and approved. We also work closely with the Accreditation sub-committee to make sure that all standards are met. Audits are also conducted on CBN candidate work experience according to policy, and the committee conducts this process.

This sub-committee also is responsible for review and revision of the Candidate Handbook. This valuable online resource gives you all the information needed to apply for and maintain Bariatric Nurse certification, and is published on the ASMBS website, CBN section.

There are currently two of us on this sub-committee; myself and Lisa Luz, RN CBN. We look forward to growing the number of RNs who take excellent care of their patients and seek certification to prove it. Please consider joining one of the CBN subcommittee’s, as there is a lot of professional discussion and reward in being a part of helping the CBN process to grow!

*-Ann Couch, RN, BSN, CBN, CPC  
Chair, CBN Policy & Procedure Subcommittee*

*The “In the Know” section of this newsletter is geared to keep you informed of the latest best practice articles, updates in clinical guidelines, and notable research publications as they relate to the care of the bariatric patient.*

### **Study Finds Certification May Impact Surgical Patients**

*New research correlates Direct-Care RN Specialty Certification and Surgical Patient Outcomes*

Overview by Jamie J. Carr, BSN, RN, CBN

Boyle, D.K., Cramer, E., Potter, C., Gatua, M.W., & Stobinski, J.X. (2014). The Relationship Between Direct-Care RN Specialty Certification and Surgical Patient Outcomes, *AORN*, 100 (5), 511-528.

The purpose of this study was to identify the relationship between the prevalence of RNs with various specialty certifications and patient outcomes. The study focused on specific patient care units in the hospital (SICU and surgical) and specific RNs certifications (certified post-anesthesia nurse, certified nurse operating room, certified RN first assistant, certified ambulatory peri-anesthesia nurse). The data used was from the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators.

The study was the first to link a number of specialty certifications with specific patient outcomes. For the SICU and surgical units, the study included all direct-care, national specialty-certified nurses because of the possible diversity of unit patient populations and diversity of available specialty certifications for nurses working on these units. Certified SICU and surgical nurses have specialized knowledge and skills to care for post-op surgical patients, which includes prevention of healthcare – associated infections and pressure ulcers.

Conclusion. The study found that the higher rates of specialty certified RNs contributed significantly to improved surgical outcomes in SICUs when controlling for a variety of unit and hospital characteristics. The findings lend credence to RN’s participating in lifelong learning and continuous professional development, including specialty certification. It was also recommended that more research is needed.

To read the article, please visit: [https://asmbs.org/wp/uploads/2015/04/AORN\\_Journal\\_Publishes\\_Study\\_CCI.pdf](https://asmbs.org/wp/uploads/2015/04/AORN_Journal_Publishes_Study_CCI.pdf)

### **Perceived Value of Certification Tool Survey**

This survey has been validated by > 10,000 nurses of various nursing specialties but had not been used to measure bariatric nurses. We sent out to > 1,700 bariatric nurses. We thank you for a > 25% response rate. Currently, we are doing analysis of the survey results and will compare the responses of: certified to non-certified bariatric nurses, and bariatric nurses to nurses of other specialties and internal motivators for certification with external motivators for certification. In addition to guiding our decisions to better help serve your certification needs; we will submit the results as a manuscript for publication. Again, thank you for your help and support with this project. We plan to continue this project by surveying Australian and New Zealand bariatric nurses through a collaboration with the Obesity Surgery Society of Australia and New Zealand (OSSANZ).

## What's coming next...

This year the CBN Committee in association with the ASMBS will honor one of our fellow CBN's with the Distinguished Certified Bariatric Nurse Award. The CBN and the ASMBS believes CBN's deserve recognition for all they do everyday for patients, families, the community, and our profession.

The Committee is very excited to introduce this new award. Please stay tuned for more details regarding the award presentation and the process on how to nominate a colleague.

## Welcome Class of Feb 2015

### Our Newest Certified Bariatric Nurses!

M. Akagi	L. Easterling	A. Kimbler	T. Reed
J. Archibeque	R. Edquid	M. Linzmeier	E. Rexroode
T. Bell	J. Elisondo	J. Loveless	L. Roscher
B. Bonazzoli	F. Fincalero	K. Martin	M. Sasaki
V. Bowden	S. Frelier	M. Martin	D. Sass
C. Braden	M. Fuego	A. McNulty	N. Schmitz
K. Cabrera	C. Fung	J. Meyer	L. Shriver
K. Call	V. Garcia	C. Miller	J. Smith
S. Cantu Fuentes	C. Gerlan	S. Mosiman	L. Stott
A. Chairress	D. Gibbons	A. Moyer	J. Stuck
K. Collins	K. Gress	J. Nabaustevens	T. Tebo
T. Conyers	D. Gullo	T. Norris	T. Thomas
R. Coon	S. Hall	D. Oroureke	R. Toner
C. Cruise	T. Hinson	P. Padilla	J. Tyner
M. Daulton	K. Hough	V. Patrick	D. Valadez
C. Davis	H. Hunt	C. Potito	D. Van Buskirk
M. Davis	M. Judd	K. Poulakis	K. Wemple
S. Dirckx	M. Julian	M. Ramirez	B. Wilson
L. Duffy			



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Christine Bauer MSN RN CBN

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This Newsletter is produced by the CBN Marketing Subcommittee & ASMBS Staff