Become a Certified Post Anesthesia Nurse (CPAN)

What are the requirements to take the Post Anesthesia Nurse certification test?
- Must hold a current unrestricted nurse licensure in the US or any of its territories that use the NCLEX as the basis for determining RN licensure. License must be unrestricted.
- Need 1,800 hours of perianesthesia clinical experience within the past two years prior to application.

Who is the credentialing organization, or certifying body, that administers the test?
- American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABPANC)

How do I obtain an application?
- Go to ABPANC; only ONLINE REGISTRATION accepted.
- Must have your ASPAN membership number if you wish to receive a discount, your RN license number and expiration date, the names and titles of two individuals who can attest that you have met the eligibility requirements (your manager, a coworker, etc) along with their email address.
- Once your application has been reviewed, you will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter via email. This contains information you will need to set up the testing date.

What do I need to know about the test?
- The cost is $385.00 for the exam. If you are a member of ASPAN you receive a discount and the cost is $285.00.
- It is a three-hour test that contains 175 multiple-choice questions.
- Physiologic needs of the perianesthesia patient (57%), Behavioral/Cognitive needs of the perianesthesia patient (20%), Safety needs (23%)
- Schedule your examination appointment at Prometric or by calling 1-800- 894-9965. You will need the information in the ATT to schedule the exam.
- Prometric locations are present throughout the area. There are 250 locations in the US. The Lombard location is closest to the hospital.
- The exam is offered two times a year, spring and fall. Registration for the fall session begins July 14th and closes at midnight September 8th. The test dates run from October 6th to November 15th.

What should I review for the test?
- PALS and ACLS current handbooks
- Practice exams are available at ABPANC
- Review courses in the area can be found by calling ASPAN at 1-877-737-9696

Once I am certified, how do I maintain my certification?
- Renewal is not required for three years.
- In order to renew credentials, you must have 1200 hours of experience during the three year period and have 90 contact hours related to continual learning.

What professional organizations are available to join?
- American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPDAN)

Have more questions? We can help!
Contact the Nursing Education and Professional Development Council: Send an email via Trinity Outlook to one of the members listed at the following link Nursing Education and Professional Development Council