Renewal by Synergy CERPs...

It’s simpler than you think!
CERPs that you’ve used for renewal in the past still count; however, they may fall into different categories.

CERPs are made up of both Learning Topics and Activities.

Ask Yourself These Questions.
You probably have more CERPs than you think.

Learning Topics
• Have you attended in-services required by your hospital, such as infection control, injury prevention, patient safety or HIPAA?
• Have you attended a class, conference or seminar and received CEs, CEUs, CMEs or CNEs?
• Have you attended a class, conference or seminar on any topic that did not award credit?
• Have you taken an academic course for credit?

Activities
• Are you a member of a professional nursing organization (e.g., AACN, ANA, etc.)?
• Do you participate on committees or advisory teams?
• Are you a member of a community or advisory team, or do you volunteer within your institution or community?
• Have you precepted or mentored?
• Have you published?

There are a few basic requirements: 1) Learning Topics and Activities must be within the renewal period. 2) Learning Topics and Activities must be related to nursing practice.

Have questions?
Not sure if it counts?
We’re here to help.
Please contact AACN Customer Care at (800) 899-2226
A total of 100 CERPs must be completed in the 3-year certification period.

CERPs = Continuing Education Recognition Points

Following are examples of how CERPs are categorized in the Renewal by Synergy CERPs program. These include, but are not limited to, the examples provided:

**Clinical Judgment and Clinical Inquiry**

**Examples:**
- Lab values
- BLS
- ACLS
- PALS
- NRP
- ECG
- IV therapy
- Heart failure
- Technical skills/new equipment
- Statistics
- Clinical research
- Evidence-based practice
- Auditing
- Publishing
- Practice protocols
- QI/QA

**Advocacy & Moral Agency, Caring Practices, Response to Diversity, Facilitation of Learning**

**Examples:**
- Safety/restraints
- Legal or ethical issues
- Charting/documentation
- Reducing medication errors
- Preceptorship
- Public policy
- HIPAA
- The Joint Commission
- Patient support groups
- Cultural aspects of care
- Diversity
- Medical Spanish
- Therapeutic communication
- Psychosocial aspects of care
- Mental illness
- Geriatric care
- Spiritual considerations
- Addiction/recovery
- Violence/abuse
- End-of-life care

**Collaboration and Systems Thinking**

**Examples:**
- Communication skills
- Teamwork
- Healthy work environments
- AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care
- Redesigning hospital care
- Disaster/emergency planning
- Developing policies or procedures
- Community resources
- Committees
- Leadership
- Management
- Risk management
- AACN membership
- Case management
Clinical Judgment and Clinical Inquiry

Examples:

- Lab values
- BLS
- ACLS
- PALS
- NRP
- ECG
- IV therapy
- Heart failure
- Pharmacology
- Assessment
- Pathophysiology
- Technical skills/new equipment
- Statistics
- Clinical research
- Evidence-based practice
- Auditing
- Publishing
- Practice protocols
- QI/QA
- Clinical aspects of bioterrorism
- Exam review courses
- CCRN or PCCN Self-Assessment Exams

Clinical Judgment

Clinical reasoning, which includes clinical decision making, critical thinking and a global grasp of the situation, coupled with nursing skills acquired through a process of integrating education, experiential knowledge and evidence-based guidelines.

### LEARNING TOPICS:

Includes all CE, academic, e-learning, CME or CNE courses and or in-services related to body systems, monitoring, physical assessment, anatomy and physiology, nursing interventions, lab values, pharmacology, ABG interpretation, diagnostic tests, therapies, fluid dynamics, BLS, ACLS, PALS, NRP, ECG interpretation, nutritional support, bariatric surgery, IV therapy, clinical implications of bioterrorism, technical skills, new equipment, core review and exam review programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCRN Self-Assessment Exam (SAE)</td>
<td>15 CERPs once per renewal period with 70% passing score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCCN Self-Assessment Exam (SAE)</td>
<td>18 CERPs once per renewal period with 70% passing score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation on an AACN Certification Corporation committee or task force (Practice Analysis, Item Writer, Exam Development, SAE or Practice Exam Reviewer)</td>
<td>30 CERPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeals Panel</td>
<td>5 CERPs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACTIVITIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calculate CERPs</td>
<td>1 hour of education = 1 CERP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Renew your certification online at www.certcorp.org.
**Clinical Inquiry**

The ongoing process of questioning and evaluating practice and providing informed practice. Creating changes through evidence-based practice, research utilization and experiential knowledge.

### LEARNING TOPICS:

**CERP**  
Calculate CERPs  
1 hour of education = 1 CERP

| Includes all CE, academic, e-learning, CME or CNE courses and/or in-services related to research and research process, quality improvement, evidence-based practice, how to do an audit or prevalence study, how to evaluate nursing care and how to publish an article. |

### ACTIVITIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop best practices, standards of practice or standard nursing care plans for specific patient populations; original authorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop evaluation tools based on outcome criteria in behavioral terms; original authorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop or revise practice protocol; original authorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditing activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality improvement activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Professional Publications:

Responsibility in the publication may be authorship, co-authorship or editorial. The item to be published may be a book, chapter in a book, paper, article, abstract, book review, etc. Professionally authored multimedia aids are acceptable. Note: CERPs for joint authorships are determined by dividing the number of CERPs to be awarded by the number of authors. **A maximum of 30 CERPs per renewal period is allowed in this area.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial in a journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write a column for a journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article in a local newsletter or AACN chapter newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original research article (peer reviewed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbook or chapter author or editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionally authored multimedia aids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal article (peer reviewed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal reviewer (review of articles or book chapters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpublished master’s thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service on editorial boards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advocacy & Moral Agency, Caring Practices, Response to Diversity, Facilitation of Learning

Examples:
- Safety/restraints
- Legal or ethical issues
- Charting/documentation
- Reducing medication errors
- Preceptorship
- Public policy
- HIPAA
- The Joint Commission
- Patient support groups
- Cultural aspects of care
- Diversity
- Medical Spanish
- Therapeutic communication
- Psychosocial aspects of care
- Mental illness
- Geriatric care
- Spiritual considerations
- Addiction/recovery
- Violence/abuse
- End-of-life care

Advocacy & Moral Agency

Working on another’s behalf and representing the concerns of the patient/family and nursing staff; serving as a moral agent in identifying and helping to resolve ethical and clinical concerns within and outside the clinical setting.

LEARNING TOPICS:
Includes all CE, academic, e-learning, CME or CNE courses and/or in-services related to patient rights, value of certification, advance directives, informed consent, ethics, ethical issues, regulatory issues (HIPAA, The Joint Commission), insurance and reimbursement, legal aspects of nursing practice, public policy and sexual harassment training.

CERPs are grouped as they relate to the nurse characteristics of the AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care. Refer to www.certcorp.org for more about the Synergy Model.

ACTIVITIES:

Participation on an ethics committee

CERP

Calculate CERPs
1 hour of education = 1 CERP

Caring Practices

Nursing activities that create a compassionate, supportive and therapeutic environment for patients and staff, with the aim of promoting comfort and healing and preventing unnecessary suffering. These caring behaviors include, but are not limited to, vigilance, engagement and responsiveness of caregivers. Caregivers include family and healthcare personnel.

LEARNING TOPICS:
Includes all CE, academic, e-learning, CME or CNE courses and/or in-services related to comfort measures, therapeutic touch, therapeutic communications, palliative care, grief and loss, patient safety (including infection control, fall prevention, body mechanics), stress management and burnout, and pet therapy.

CERPs

Calculate CERPs
1 hour of education = 1 CERP

ACTIVITIES:

Facilitate a patient or family support group (e.g., Mended Hearts, bariatric or transplant support groups)

6 CERPs per year (minimum of 6 hours)

Participation in pet visitation program for hospital or nursing home

5 CERPs per year (min. of 5 hrs.)

Facilitate a critical incident debriefing with staff involved

5 CERPs per year (min. of 5 hours spent on incident)
### Response to Diversity

The sensitivity to recognize, appreciate and incorporate differences into the provision of care. Differences may include, but are not limited to, individual, cultural, spiritual, gender, race, ethnicity, lifestyle, socioeconomic, age and values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING TOPICS:</th>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes all CE, academic, e-learning, CME or CNE courses and/or in-services related to cultural diversity, developmental stages, medical Spanish, spiritual considerations of the dying patient, psychosocial issues in diverse populations and outcomes/health disparities related to diverse populations.</td>
<td>Calculate CERPs 1 hour of education = 1 CERP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACTIVITIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation on an advisory team or committee related to diversity (e.g., multigenerational work environment, cultural aspects of care, special needs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer community service for diverse patient populations (e.g., HIV hospice, migrant health clinics, free clinics). Minimum 4 visits/service contacts per year. Activity must involve nursing clinical judgment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Facilitation of Learning (or Patient/Family Educator)

The ability to facilitate learning for patients/families, nursing staff, other members of the healthcare team and the community. Includes both formal and informal faciliitation of learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING TOPICS:</th>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes all CE, academic, e-learning, CME or CNE courses and/or in-services related to learning theory, mentoring, precepting, assessing learning needs and health literacy projects.</td>
<td>Calculate CERPs 1 hour of education = 1 CERP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACTIVITIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preceptorship/mentorship (includes checking skills for staff competency). Minimum of 80 hours per year of preceptorship required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing informational aids intended for use as references in the clinical area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing patient educational aids, booklets or audiovisual projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing a multimedia learning module (e.g., patient teaching program on PowerPoint)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional Presentations:**

Encompasses the certificant’s participation as an instructor delivering content to nurses, other healthcare professionals or the public. The presentation must be delivered within a structured framework of teaching/learning.

- A presentation includes seminar, in-service, clinical conference, patient/family education program, consumer education program, Basic Cardiac Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, AACN chapter educational activities and/or presenting an original paper or poster. The participant may be a primary instructor, member of a team, guest lecturer or member of a panel. Check-in stations during a skills lab also count in this category.

- If the program is co-taught, the number of CERPs to be awarded is determined by dividing CERPs by the number of instructors.

- A maximum of 10 CERPs per year will be granted for professional presentations.
**Collaboration and Systems Thinking**

**Examples:**
- Communication skills
- Teamwork
- Healthy work environments
- AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care
- Redesigning hospital care
- Disaster/emergency planning
- Developing policies or procedures
- Community resources
- Committees
- Leadership
- Management
- Risk management
- AACN membership
- Case management

**Collaboration**

Working with others (e.g., patients, families, healthcare providers) in a way that promotes/encourages each person’s contributions toward achieving optimal/realistic patient/family goals. Collaboration involves intra- and interdisciplinary work with colleagues and community.

---

### LEARNING TOPICS:

Includes all CE, academic, e-learning, CME or CNE courses and/or in-services related to communication skills, dealing with conflict, dealing with difficult people, crucial conversations, and improving interdepartmental or inter- and intraprofessional communication.

Calculate CERPs

1 hour of education = 1 CERP

---

### ACTIVITIES:

Current membership in a professional nursing healthcare organization (e.g., AACN, ANA, etc.)

3 CERPs per yr per organization (max 6 CERPs per year)

---

The following applies for AACN or other national organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>CERP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation on a Chapter Advisory Team</td>
<td>15 CERPs per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation as a Learning Connection Mentor</td>
<td>5 CERPs per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation on a review panel (grant abstract, NTI Creative Scholarship)</td>
<td>5 CERPs per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a think tank</td>
<td>10 CERPs per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in a work group</td>
<td>10 CERPs per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation as an AACN Ambassador</td>
<td>5 CERPs per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation on a non-AACN national committee</td>
<td>10 CERPs per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering in a healthcare mission (e.g., Flying SAMS, Project Concern, health fairs, manning a first-aid booth at a community event). Activity must utilize nursing clinical judgement.</td>
<td>1 CERP per hour (max of 8 CERPs per renewal period)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Systems Thinking**

The body of knowledge and tools that allow the nurse to manage whatever environmental and system resources that exist for the patient/family and staff within or across healthcare systems and non-healthcare systems.

---

**LEARNING TOPICS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERPs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Includes all CE, academic, e-learning, CME or CNE courses and/or in-services related to care across many departments, settings, facilities, participants, regions; discharge planning; standards of excellence; management and leadership skills; healthy work environments; AACN Synergy Model for Patient Care; risk management; natural disaster/emergency planning and coordination, exploring community resources, etc. | Calculate CERPs
1 hour of education = 1 CERP |

---

**ACTIVITIES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERPs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in activities/teams/committees that solve or prevent complex problems and improve care across many participants, multiple departments, settings, facilities or regions (e.g., spearheading a major patient care improvement)</td>
<td>5 CERPs per activity per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in leadership responsibilities or committee involvement at a chapter/regional level</td>
<td>8 CERPs per committee per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership responsibilities or committee involvement in professional or health-related organizations</td>
<td>8 CERPs per committee per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation as an AACN or AANC Certification Corporation Board Member</td>
<td>20 CERPs per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiating or leading an interdisciplinary team to solve a patient care problem or leading a case conference</td>
<td>5 CERPs per team meeting/case conference (maximum of 5 CERPs per year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing or revising nursing policy or procedure</td>
<td>3 CERPs for original, 1 CERP for revision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Renew your certification online at www.certcorp.org.
Renewal by Synergy CERPs

A total of 100 CERPs must be completed in the 3-year certification period, with at least 60 CERPs in Category A and 10 each in Categories B and C - plus 20 CERPs in the category of your choice.

Key Parts of Documenting

- Your name
- Dates completed (within 3-year renewal period)
- Course title or topic
- Name of the organization, institution or hospital where the learning topic or activity took place
- Hours of CE or in-service
- Signature of educator, course director or supervisor

How to Calculate CERPs

Continuing Education Recognition Points (CERPs) are calculated according to the educational contact hour for seminars or lectures. For purposes of certification renewal, one (1) hour of education time is equal to 1 CERP. For example, a 1-hour in-service would be worth 1 CERP; an education program that awarded 6 contact hours, 6 CEs, 6 CMEs or 6 CNEs would be worth 6 CERPs.

CERPs are not awarded for registration, introductions, breaks, lunch, clinical time or completion of certification exams.

For academic credit courses, one (1) credit is worth 15 CERPs. For example, a 3-credit course would be worth 45 CERPs.

Certification Renewal Eligibility

1. Current unencumbered licensure as an RN or APRN in the U.S.
2. Completion of 432 hours of direct bedside care of acutely and/or critically ill patients within the 3-year certification period, with 144 of those hours accrued in the year preceding your scheduled renewal date. Hours spent supervising or precepting nurses or nursing students at the bedside are eligible.
3. Hours must be completed in a U.S.- or Canada-based facility, or in a facility determined to be comparable to the U.S. standard of acute or critical care nursing practice as evidenced by ANCC Magnet Status or Joint Commission International accreditation.
4. Complete the Renewal by Synergy CERPs program or retake and pass the exam.

Synergy CERPs Logs

Logs are available in your renewal handbook and online. Certificants who successfully complete CCRN or PCCN renewal should continue to keep personal records of CERP activities for at least 3 years from their scheduled renewal date to submit in the event an audit is performed.

Visit www.aacn.org/synergycerps.
Learning Topics:

- **CE** - Copy of CE certificate that has your name, date(s) of attendance, title of course and contact hours.

- **In-service/Program not providing CEs** - If the program was not formally granted contact hours (e.g., hospital or unit in-services), submit written verification of attendance, including name of participant, date(s) of attendance, title of course and hours of course (minus breaks and lunch), signed by educator or course director.

- **ACLS, BLS, PALS, NRP** - Please provide documentation of hours, with course date(s) and title, your name and signature of an educator, course director or supervisor, so the total number of CERPs may be calculated. Copies of cards are not sufficient for audit as they do not include actual class time, which varies.

- **Academic Course** - Copy or online print-out of formal transcript or grade report. If course title or subject is not identifiable as relating to assigned Synergy CERP category, include course description or brief profile of content. Must include time or CEs awarded.

Activities:

- **Membership in professional organization** - Copy of membership card.

- **Project/Activity/Committee** - Written verification of project, activity or committee/board involvement, including date(s); (e.g. precepting). Need: name of team, years on team and topics discussed.

- **Leadership Activities** - Written verification from the organization on initiative or leadership role on team to solve patient care problem.

- **Publication** - Copy of the title page and table of contents. Publisher’s notice of acceptance for publication should be submitted if CERPs are to be granted before printing.

- **SAE** - Copy of SAE score report showing passing score of at least 70%.

- **Professional presentation** - Evidence of participation in the presentation (e.g., brochure, announcement or written statement) and contact hours.

- **Facilitation of group** - Written verification by manager of facilitation of critical incident debriefing or support group with date(s) and number of staff/patient/family involved.

- **Volunteer Participation with national organization** - Written verification from the organization; should include dates of participation.

- **Volunteer Activities** - Written documentation (brochure) of the volunteer organization’s values and mission statement.

The list of examples is not all-inclusive; other learning topics and activities that are similar and fall within the category descriptions will also qualify for CERPs.