



### RECORD NUMBER OF NURSES TO WRITE APRIL 2010 CNA CERTIFICATION EXAMS

A record number of registered nurses are diligently reviewing certification competencies and hitting the books in preparation for the April 17, 2010, CNA certification exams. This year, over 2,500 registered nurses have applied to write a certification exam in one of 19 specialties/areas of nursing practice, including the new medical-surgical area of practice. The number of study groups for exam preparation keeps growing, with 42 posted on the CNA website. Many provide tele- and video-conferencing, and organizations such as the de Souza Institute offer study groups and tuition reimbursement to oncology and hospice palliative care nurses in Ontario. The increased interest in the CNA Certification Program is an indicator that registered nurses from across Canada are not only enthusiastic about best practices, but are committed to nursing excellence and continuing competence.

### GET INVOLVED! WITH CNA CERTIFICATION EXAM DEVELOPMENT

The CNA Certification Program is looking for subject-matter experts to assist with CNA certification exam development. Nurses certified in community health, orthopaedic and rehabilitation nursing are especially needed. Participating in exam development provides a wonderful opportunity to network with nurses in your specialty, learn about the rigorous exam development processes, and earn continuous learning (CL) hours toward your CNA certification renewal. For more information, please contact us via the electronic form available on the CNA certification website at [http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/nursing/certification/expertise/default\\_e.aspx](http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/nursing/certification/expertise/default_e.aspx).

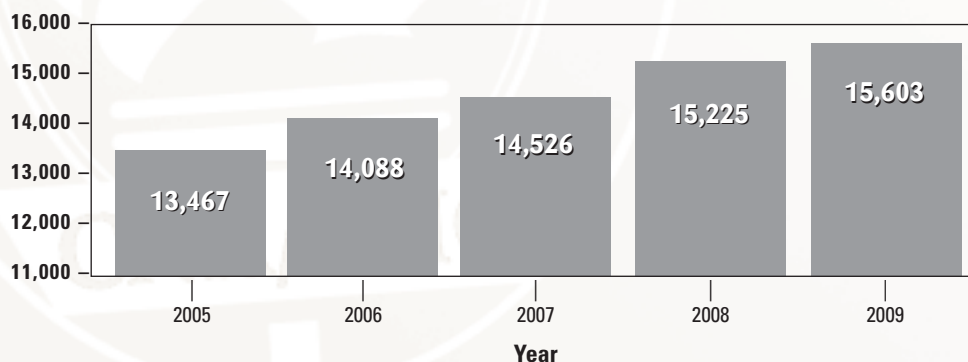
### STUDY GROUPS: AN INSPIRATION FOR NURSES

Nine neuroscience nurses from Saint John, New Brunswick, wrote to CNA about their rewarding experience of preparing for, writing and achieving their goal of earning the CNA certification credential. They told us about the essence of working together, creating a supportive learning environment and some of the challenges they faced. They all wear their CNA certification pin proudly, both as a symbol of nursing excellence and of their collegiality.

To read more about their study group experience, please visit the CNA Certification study group website at [http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/nursing/certification/apply/studygroups/default\\_e.aspx](http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/nursing/certification/apply/studygroups/default_e.aspx).

### CERTIFICATION STATISTICS FOR 2009

As of December 31, 2009, there were 15,603 valid CNA certifications in 18 different specialties/areas of nursing practice, reflecting an increase of 2.5% from the previous year. In 2010, medical-surgical nursing became the 19th CNA certification exam.



**Figure 1.**  
Number of Registered Nurses with Valid CNA Certification by Year (All Specialties), 2005-2009

Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy

*Life is more about the journey, and not the destination. A prime example of this was preparing for the CNA certification exam. It was not all about pass or fail, but rather the group experience.*

Cathy Abric, RN CNN(C)

*Certification was many things for me. Although stressful at times, this experience was rewarding as I gained a great deal of knowledge and confidence.*

Rose Butler, RN CNN(C)

*I still cannot believe that I am now a CNA-certified neuroscience nurse! All the hard work and long hours really did pay off!*

Christine Aucoin, RN CNN(C)

## CERTIFICATION SPECIALTIES

In 2009, gerontology maintained its position as the specialty with the most certifications, at 2,073. Relative to the other nursing specialties within the CNA Certification Program with more than 400 valid certifications, community health stands out in terms of growth experienced during the past year – certification numbers went from 338 to 460, an increase of 36.1%. Among the six specialties that numbered fewer than 400 certifications in 2009, critical care pediatrics stands out in terms of growth during the past year, with a rise from 100 to 113, or 13.0%. Orthopaedics certifications experienced similar growth, with numbers increasing from 153 to 169, or 10.5%.

**Table 1.**

Number of Valid CNA Certifications by Year and Specialty, 2005-2009

Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy

N/A: Not applicable because the specialty certification was not available at the time.

\* First time certification available in this specialty.

SPECIALTY AREA	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cardiovascular	660	713	722	774	793
Community Health	N/A	148*	216	338	460
Critical Care	1,263	1,223	1,166	1,190	1,191
Critical Care Pediatrics	61	94	104	100	113
Emergency	1,353	1,307	1,323	1,345	1,333
Enterostomal Therapy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	66*
Gastroenterology	147	171	205	235	231
Gerontology	1,822	1,937	1,988	2,104	2,073
Hospice Palliative Care	756	916	1,103	1,247	1,232
Nephrology	963	1,019	1,052	1,080	1,103
Neuroscience	207	223	237	258	269
Occupational Health	952	926	908	888	879
Oncology	1,231	1,332	1,323	1,360	1,431
Orthopaedics	N/A	73*	125	153	169
Perinatal	619	621	642	665	719
Perioperative	1,672	1,585	1,552	1,566	1,560
Psychiatric/Mental Health	1,761	1,729	1,734	1,750	1,765
Rehabilitation	N/A	71*	121	172	216
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,467</b>	<b>14,088</b>	<b>14,526</b>	<b>15,225</b>	<b>15,603</b>

## SNAPSHOT OF CNA CERTIFICATION IN CANADA

Table 2 gives a breakdown of the number of valid CNA certifications and certification renewals by specialty and by province/territory of registration for the period 2005 to 2009.

**Table 2.**

Number of Valid CNA Certifications by Specialty and Province/Territory of Registration, 2005-2009

Source: Canadian Nurses Association, Department of Regulatory Policy

\*Information suppressed to protect privacy (1-4 records).

\*\*Information suppressed to protect privacy (5+ records).

To prevent calculation of the suppressed number (\*) by using other data in the table, another number (usually the next lowest number) is suppressed.

<sup>1</sup>Both the overall total and the total for occupational health are inclusive of occupational health nursing reciprocity candidates; however, these candidates are not shown in the distribution across jurisdictions.

SPECIALTY AREA	AB	BC	MB	NB	NL	NS	NT	ON	PE	QC	SK	YT/NU	Total
Cardiovascular	71	134	**	61	17	52	0	377	*	30	37	0	793
Community Health	60	36	32	9	76	24	6	186	*	0	26	*	460
Critical Care	113	99	22	49	38	47	*	687	**	83	43	0	1,191
Critical Care Pediatrics	22	23	*	0	0	11	0	48	0	6	*	0	113
Emergency	93	162	57	110	49	89	24	646	14	31	50	7	1,333
Enterostomal Therapy	8	7	*	*	0	*	0	35	*	*	*	0	66
Gastroenterology	35	49	8	7	*	*	0	103	*	8	11	0	231
Gerontology	344	642	146	70	45	124	*	599	49	31	18	*	2,073
Hospice Palliative Care	147	296	79	37	**	70	0	507	7	58	22	*	1,232
Nephrology	124	141	35	31	35	43	*	605	*	53	28	0	1,103
Neuroscience	39	23	**	23	*	21	0	92	0	42	15	0	269
Occupational Health	100	55	23	20	35	46	0	561	*	10	24	0	879
Oncology	103	68	78	44	22	47	*	837	**	173	45	0	1,431
Orthopaedics	57	16	9	24	0	15	*	43	0	*	*	0	169
Perinatal	42	92	27	51	15	40	12	382	14	24	15	*	719
Perioperative	245	216	94	72	84	83	**	662	15	48	30	*	1,560
Psychiatric/Mental Health	41	99	16	64	71	119	5	1,289	30	23	*	*	1,765
Rehabilitation	12	30	9	**	*	15	0	127	*	5	5	0	216
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>7,786</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15,603<sup>1</sup></b>

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