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Ambulatory Care and Medical-Surgical Nursing Organizations Collaborate on First-Ever Certification Exam for Care Coordination and Transition Management

PITMAN, NJ – In an exciting leap forward to ensure patient care is safely and efficiently coordinated among qualified providers, the [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing](#) (AAACN) and the [Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board](#) (MSNCB) announce their collaboration on a Care Coordination and Transition Management (CCTM) certification exam.

The exam will be developed and administered by MSNCB based on AAACN's *Care Coordination and Transition Management Core Curriculum*. Exam development will begin immediately and is expected to be ready in early fall 2015.

RNs are uniquely qualified to perform care coordination and transition management in all settings. To better prepare RNs for a CCTM role in which they must manage patients with complex health care needs from an access, quality, and cost perspective, AAACN conducted a two-year expert panel translational research process spearheaded by longtime AAACN leaders Sheila A. Haas, PhD, RN, FAAN, Beth Ann Swan, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, and Traci S. Haynes, MSN, RN, BA, CEN. The result was the creation of evidence-based CCTM core competencies, a core curriculum text, and 13-module online course, which is scheduled for release this August. The CCTM exam is the next step in this process, bringing together the quality of MSNCB's certification exam development and administration with the CCTM content expertise of AAACN.

"This is a perfect marriage between acute and ambulatory care," says MSNCB President Mimi Haskins, MS, RN, CMSRN. "These are the nurses who will be managing transitions and coordinating care. What better scenario than to have these two groups working to develop the exam that will validate that a nurse is qualified to provide specialized nursing care as a Care Coordinator?"

AAACN President Marianne Sherman, MS, RN-BC, agrees that nurses who achieve this certification will be in great demand. "Care coordinators are key to ensuring that top quality services are provided," she said. "They help patients navigate the health care system, which improves outcomes and helps to lower costs."

The [Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses](#) (AMSN) contributed to the development process of the CCTM project and authored the "CCTM Between Acute Care and Ambulatory Care" chapter in the core curriculum text. AMSN also endorsed the ground breaking text.

AAACN and MSNCB will begin to develop the exam with a practice analysis, followed by the assembly of a panel of item writers to develop the test questions, and pilot testing of the exam. For more information about the CCTM initiatives, visit <http://aaacn.org/cctm>.

ABOUT AAACN | aaacn.org

AAACN is a welcoming, unifying community for registered nurses in all ambulatory care settings. Founded 39 years ago, this specialty nursing organization's mission is to advance the art and science of ambulatory care nursing.

ABOUT MSNCB | msncb.org

MSNCB is an independently incorporated certification board affiliated with the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSΝ). Its mission is to validate excellence in medical-surgical nursing. MSNCB also administers the Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN) exam which is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC).

ABOUT the CCTM | aaacn.org/cctm

The evidence-based Care Coordination and Transition Management course and core curriculum text was created by AAACN to educate, standardize, and ensure excellence in patient care. Developed by an expert panel of nurses, the course is a vital guide to the state of research evidence for care coordination and transition management.