

Rationale for Recertification Requirements

Recertification requirements are designed to ensure that certificants are current and in good standing with nursing, to encourage them to expand their expertise, disseminate knowledge and skills, and provide leadership in holistic nursing or nurse coaching.

Five-year requirement for recertification – While the foundation of holistic nursing remains stable, new knowledge, skills, and strategies related to holistic person-centered and relationship-based care, evidence regarding effectiveness of holistic integrative interventions and coaching strategies, and holistic conceptual frameworks are continually evolving. Demonstration of continuing competence requires acquisition of new knowledge through self-reflection, self-development, and life-long learning.

Active, unrestricted RN license – An active and unrestricted license indicates that the registered nurse may practice in their state without stipulations and there are no known ethical or moral violations that require the attention of AHNCC. It ensures that only licensed registered nurses are certified

Active involvement in holistic nursing – In addition to continuing education, active practice in holistic nursing supports continuing competence and professional growth. A total of 1 year of full-time practice or 2000 hours in the previous 5 years is required as a criterion, for continued competence. Nurse coaches are required to have 1200 hours of practice within the last five-year period in order to renew their certification. Practicing nurses actively apply their knowledge, skills, and values which encourages them to maintain their expertise and provide leadership in holistic nursing and nurse coaching. This may include private practice, working as an educator, researcher, at the bedside or in the community, volunteer work, i.e., as a parish nurse, or anywhere else where you use your RN license, and offer nursing knowledge, skills, beliefs, and expertise.

Completion of one-hundred contact hours of continuing education or professional development hours– The requirement for 100 hours of continuing education or equivalent professional development hours ensures new learning and updating one's knowledge base and skills related to holistic nursing and/or nurse coaching through a variety of professional development activities. Lifelong growth, development, and self-reflection is expected of all AHNCC certificants. In addition to completing structured education, candidates may participate in activities that support holistic nursing or nurse coaching practice. Refer to the table of Continuing Competency activities for approved professional growth and development focused activities.

Signed letter of agreement with AHNCC – In signing the letter of agreement, the candidate for recertification verifies that information provided is accurate, gives AHNCC permission to review the application, and agrees to remain in compliance with the rules, standards, and policies of AHNCC.