Special Notices+Alerts

CGFNS INTERNATIONAL

FOR HEALTHCARE RECRUITERS

FEBRUARY 2008

2008 examination dates and deadlines for the CGFNS Certification Program (CP) Qualifying Exam℠

The CGFNS Qualifying Exam℠ tests the knowledge of first-level, general nurses educated outside of the United States who wish to practice in the United States. Approximately 1,500 nurses worldwide are scheduled to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam℠ on March 12, 2008.

Do you have the CGFNS Edge?

The CGFNS Qualifying Exam℠ is the best preparation and success predictor for passing NCLEX®.

Nurses who have been certified by CGFNS are the most highly recruited candidates for practice in the United States.

The CGFNS Qualifying Exam℠ is now being offered in St. Kitts

CGFNS is pleased to add St. Kitts as a test site location for its Qualifying Exam. Other West Indies test site locations include Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

2008 Qualifying Exam Dates

Examination date	Deadline for NEW applications*	Deadline for re-applications*	Location/Test date change deadline
July 9, 2008	April 2, 2008	April 30, 2008	April 23, 2008
September 17, 2008**	June 18, 2008	July 2, 2008	June 25, 2008
November 12, 2008	August 6, 2008	September 10, 2008	September 3, 2008

*Application deadlines are firm
**Administered at select locations

The nursing shortfall in the United States

In the January/February 2007 issue of *Health Affairs,* Dr. David I. Auerbach and colleagues estimated that the U.S. shortage of registered nurses (RNs) will increase to 340,000 by the year 2020. Though this is significantly less than earlier projections for a shortfall of 800,000 RNs which was made back in 2000, the study authors note that the nursing shortage is still expected to increase by three times the current rate over the next 13 years.

This means healthcare systems in the United States will continue to recruit foreign educated nurses. United States healthcare systems continue to put pressure on the United States Government to solve the problem of retrogression — the procedural delay in issuing visas caused by the number of visas being applied for exceeding the number of visas available.

"One of the biggest advantages of hiring foreign RNs is occupational quality. As a result of the thorough review of educational and licensure credentials by the International Commission on Healthcare Professions (ICHP), in the form of a *VisaScreen®* Certificate, the professional competence of foreign RNs is extremely high. ICHP is a division of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)."

— JOHN WILSON, JD, *ADVANCE FOR NURSES,* MARCH 2007

Glossary of terms used by CGFNS

Below is a list of terms CGFNS International uses online and when processing applicants.

Application order types

Initial :: First application order.

Renewal (for *Visascreen*®) :: *VisaScreen*® Certificate expires after five years from date of issue. A Renewal *VisaScreen*® application order may be placed for a *VisaScreen*® Renewal Certificate.

Re-Process :: Order type for expired orders. Applicant did not meet the requirements for the service within the first 12 months of their initial order and wants to continue the service. Applicant may submit a Re-Process an Expired Initial Order within 12 months after the initial order expired.

Replacement Certificate :: Additional CGFNS Service order for replacing an original Certificate that has been damaged, destroyed or lost. There is a fee for this service and the Certificate is marked as a replacement. If corrected data is needed on the original Certificate due to a CGFNS error, a Replacement Certificate is issued without charge.

Applicant order statuses

Certified :: Applicant has met all of the requirements of the *VisaScreen*® or Certification Program and a Certificate has been printed and mailed.

Service Completed Successfully :: All documents have been reviewed and meet all program requirements. In addition, if applicable, the applicant has passed all English exam requirements, or is English exempt and the Certificate is in a print queue to be processed for mailing.

Waiting on Passing English :: Applicant has met all of the requirements for the program, with the exception of the English exam proficiency requirement, if applicable.

Waiting for Remaining Required Items :: An International Credentials Evaluator, (ICE) has reviewed the application and documents and there are outstanding documents or additional information necessary to meet requirements.

Ready for Review :: The minimum required documents have been received and the applicant file will be assigned for a review by an International Credentials Evaluator, (ICE).

Received and Accepted :: A required document has been received, entered and was accepted by data processing, but a review by an International Credentials Evaluator (ICE) has not yet taken place.

Waiting for Required Items :: Required documents have not been received to start a review.

Expired :: Applicant's order has expired because the requirements of the program were not met and completed within 12 months. A Re-Process An Expired Order must be submitted, within 12 months, if applicant wants to continue the service.

Cancelled :: Applicant order has been terminated. Applicant can request their order to be cancelled (without refund). Duplicate online orders are also cancelled.

Applicant requirement statuses

English Exam Exempt :: Applicant does not need to take English Proficiency exams because they were educated in a country where English is the primary language and it has been designated as an English-exempt country.

Passed :: Status for passing of the English Proficiency, the Certification Program (CP) Qualifying or the NCLEX® exams.

Waiting for Passing Test Results :: Have not received passing results for English Proficiency exams, proof of passing NCLEX®, or passing results for the Certification Program (CP) Qualifying Exam.

Meets All Program Requirements :: Determined by an International Credentials Evaluator (ICE) review, documents meet all program requirements.

Requirement Waived :: Document was deemed unnecessary to meet requirements.

Deficient Educational Requirements :: Applicant's education has a deficiency that would make them ineligible for the service.

Received, but not Reviewed :: Document has been received and accepted by data processing; however, a review by an International Credentials Evaluator (ICE) has not yet taken place.

Received, but not Accepted :: Document has been received and was either rejected during data processing because of a discrepancy, or an International Credentials Evaluator (ICE) reviewed the document and determined it was not acceptable.

Restrictions on Credential :: International Credentials Evaluator (ICE) reviewed credential (license) and identified a restriction (the license was restricted, disciplined or suspended).

Failed :: Applicant did not pass the Certification Program (CP) Qualifying Exam or English Proficiency tests.

Waiting to be Received :: A required document has not yet been received.

Other terms

Eligible :: All required documentation was received and reviewed and it was determined that all meet the requirements.

Ineligible :: Applicant does not have the required education requirement or license/registration and is therefore not eligible.

Sealed :: Action taken because of misrepresentation or fraud related to documents.

CGFNS celebrates its 30th anniversary

In 2007, CGFNS International celebrated 30 years as the internationally recognized authority on credentials evaluation and verification pertaining to the education, registration and licensure of nurses and healthcare professionals worldwide.

From 1977–2007, CGFNS tested and/or issued certificates and reports to 655,500 foreign educated healthcare workers wishing to practice in the United States.

Certification Program (CP) since 1977	Tested 340,000 foreign-educated applicants Issued 130,000 Certificates
Credentials Evaluation Service (CES) since 1993	Issued 35,000 Reports
***VisaScreen*® (VS) since 1996**	Issued 90,000 Certificates
Credential Verification Service for New York State (CVS) since 2001	Verified credentials of 40,000 applicants
International Consultants of Delaware (ICD)	20,500 Reports issued since 1977; 15,500 since 2000, the year it was acquired by CGFNS.

CGFNS/ICHP Program handbooks and applications will be available in February 2008

CGFNS International will release the 2008 versions of its downloadable and printed program handbooks and applications in February 2008. Following the release of the 2008 handbooks and applications, all downloadable and printed applications thereafter submitted to CGFNS/ICHP should be the 2008 version.

CGFNS International Mission Statement

Provide expert credentials evaluation and professional development services to promote the health and safety of the public.

CGFNS International Vision Statement

Serve the global community through credential programs that verify and promote the practice competency of migrating professionals.