

Appendix A: State PCT Certification Programs - States with Provisions or Requirements that Meet CMS Approval

Purpose: Appendix A was developed to identify States that have implemented PCT certification programs which are equivalent to the approved commercial national certification programs and includes the following information:

- **State Meets CMS Requirements for PCT Certification through Option A or Option B:** CMS requirements include the following elements: (1) a qualifying standardized test; (2) an independently proctored and protected test environment; and (3) ongoing recertification. A √ indicates the State program meets these requirements by either Option A (a State provided equivalent program); or Option B (State requires PCTs be certified by a National certification program); or choosing elements from each of these options to meet all three of the CMS required elements.
- **Qualifying Standardized Test:** A √ indicates that the State test is a “qualifying standardized test” that meets the following CMS definition:
 - **Expert development and review:** The test is developed by a group of subject matter experts representing more than one provider entity. The test is reviewed by a qualified entity (i.e., a university, State licensing board, test-development company, or another entity approved by CMS) for internal consistency and to ensure the test covers both common and critical tasks.
 - **Content adequacy, validity, equivalency, and scoring:** The test measures a student’s performance against specific standards; in this case against the required curricula items for a PCT and the knowledge and skills a PCT must demonstrate. The test measures similar information under the same testing conditions; all test takers (with the exceptions of those with certain disabilities) must be given the same amount of time to compete their exams; the test environment must be quiet and controlled. The “qualifying standardized test” must be equivalent to a national standardized test. The test must be scored and have a set passing score.
 - **Reliability:** The test produces consistent scores among different testing conditions or versions of the test. The test works the same way for all test takers; the language and wording of test questions are free of cultural, racial, ethnic, gender, and other forms of bias that may inappropriately affect students’ performance.
 - **Integrity:** The test questions are protected from distribution outside of the test environment. The test questions are refreshed periodically to prevent future test takers from receiving biased learning from past test takers.
 - **Protected:** The test is protected from casual distribution.
- **Independently Proctored and Protected Test Environment:** A √ indicates that the test (either State or National) is given in a controlled environment by an independent proctor, and the test environment safeguards the test from inappropriate review. **Ongoing Recertification:** A √ indicates the State requires maintenance of certification by continuing education requirements equivalent to those for recertification by the National certification organizations, or requires recertification by the National certification organization.
- **State Requires National Certification:** A √ in these boxes indicates the State requires the certification elements (i.e., standardized test, independently proctored and protected environment, and ongoing certification) for PCTs be met through the use of a CMS-approved National certification organization. The following organizations have been approved:
 - **BONENT: Board of Nephrology Nursing & Technology**
 - **NNCC: Nephrology Nursing Certifying Commission**
 - **NNCO: National Nephrology Certification Organization**
- **State Has Dialysis Regulations:** A √ indicates there are State regulations affecting dialysis clinics. The regulations may or may not address regulation or certification of PCTs.
- **State Requires PCT Certification:** A √ indicates there is a State regulation requiring certification of PCTs by a either a State-administered program or by a National certifying board

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State Information		Option A State Provides Elements of CMS Approval			Option B State Requires National Elements for CMS Approval			State Requirements	
State Meets CMS Requirements for PCT Certification through Option A or Option B	State or Territory	Qualifying Standardized Test	Independently Proctored & Protected Test Environment	Ongoing Recertification	Standardized Test	Independently Proctored & Protected Test Environment	Ongoing Recertification	State Has Dialysis Regulations	State Requires PCT Certification
	AK								
	AL							√	
	AR								
	AS								
√	AZ				√	√	√	√	√
√	CA	√	√	√				√	√
√	CO				√	√	√	√	√
√ ¹	CT				√	√	√	√	√ ¹
	DC								
	DE								
	FL								
	GA							√	
	GU								
	HI								
	IA								
	ID								
	IL							√	
	IN								
	KS								
	KY			√				√	√
	LA							√	
	MA							√	
	MD	√		√				√	√
	ME							√	
	MI								
	MN								
	MO								
√	MS				√ ²	√ ²	√ ²	√	√
√	MT				√ ³	√	√ ³	√	√
	NC								
	ND								
	NE								
	NH								

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State Information		Option A State Provides Elements of CMS Approval			Option B State Requires National Elements for CMS Approval			State Requirements	
State Meets CMS Requirements for PCT Certification through Option A or Option B	State or Territory	Qualifying Standardized Test	Independently Proctored & Protected Test Environment	Ongoing Recertification	Standardized Test	Independently Proctored & Protected Test Environment	Ongoing Recertification	State Has Dialysis Regulations	State Requires PCT Certification
	NJ							√	
√	NM	√	√	√				√	√
	NMI (Saipan)								
	NV							√	
	NY							√	
√	OH			√ ⁴	√ ⁵	√		√	√
√	OK								
√	OR			√ ⁶	√	√		√	√
	PA								
	PR							√	
	RI							√	
	SC							√	
	SD							√	
	TN							√	
	TX							√	
	UT							√	
√	VA				√	√	√	√	√
	VT							√	
	VI								
	WA							√	
	WI								
√ ⁷	WV				√	√	√	√	√ ⁷
	WY							√	

¹ CT requires PCT certification if the PCT gives medications (saline, heparin, lidocaine); CMS requires all PCTs be certified

² MS accepts only NNCC exams and requires PCTs to take the exam at the Board of Nursing office; accepts only NNCC recertification

³ MT accepts only NNCC or BONENT exams for PCT certification /recertification

⁴ OH provides an equivalent state recertification program independent from the national certification boards

⁵ OH accepts only NNCO or BONENT exams for PCT certification

⁶ OR provides an equivalent state recertification program independent from the national certification boards

⁷ WV has required national certification for PCTs since 7/1/2006; PCTs employed or trained prior to that date were grandfathered; CMS does not allow this exception