CONTINUING EDUCATION CONTACT HOURS

Ninety (90) contact hours (CH) are required to maintain or earn the Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN®) credential via recertification by continuing education or exam exemption. Of these, at least 68 CH must be medical-surgical nursing specific.

Types of Contact Hours:
Medical-Surgical Nursing Contact Hours:
These hours include content related to direct patient care in a medical-surgical setting. A helpful tip is if the content of the activity is included in the CMSRN exam blueprint, then the contact hours will be considered medical-surgical nursing. A minimum of 68 contact hours in this category is required; however, it is permissible to have all 90 med-surg contact hours with no professional development.

Professional Development and Other Health Related Contact Hours:
These contact hours include the broad area of health care, general nursing, and professional development. Topics include leadership, how to conduct research, nursing theory, informatics, pediatrics, ethics, blood matching, and more. A maximum of 22 contact hours in this category is permitted.

Contact Hours Awarded:
Contact hours will be given according to the number awarded. Contact hours earned from January 1 of the first year of current certification may be submitted for recertification.

ACCEPTABLE CONTACT HOUR ACTIVITIES

1. Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) Activities
CNE contact hour activities provide a contact hour certificate. Activities include journal articles, courses, workshops, and independent study.
- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical-surgical or professional development, depending on the content.
- Education programs must be presented by an individual, state, or national organization accredited as a provider or approver of continuing nursing education.
- ACLS course work is accepted.
- BLS course work is not accepted, as it is typically required for registered nurses.
- Contact hours earned at an education convention or seminar with multiple sessions may be listed as a total amount for the entire convention or seminar. MSNCB reserves the right to request additional information on convention or seminar content or objectives.
- All contact hours provided by the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN) are considered entirely as medical-surgical CH.
- Continuing Medical Education (CME) activities are acceptable when the content is also applicable to nursing. If audited, course outline and/or objectives must be submitted. One CME = 1 CH.

2. Preceptorship/Mentoring
Preceptors/Mentors must provide medical-surgical focused clinical supervision to baccalaureate, masters or doctoral degree students and/or newly hired nurses.
- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical-surgical CH.
- The Preceptor/Mentor Verification form (found at the end of this guide) must be completed and submitted for the contact hours to be included.
- 30 hours as a preceptor/mentor = 5 CH, with a maximum of 20 CH per recertification period.
3. **Academic Courses**
A registered nurse enrolled in an accredited baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degree program may receive CH for academic course work related to medical-surgical nursing.
- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical-surgical or professional development, depending on the content.
- General education courses may not be used.
- A copy of a transcript must be provided for the contact hours to be included. If audited, an official transcript must be provided.
- One academic hour (credit) = 15 CH, with a maximum of 75 CH allowed per recertification period.

4. **Presentation**
This category comprises the presentation of new content for academic courses and CNE programs.
- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical-surgical or professional development, depending on the content.
- Presentations must be awarded academic credit or be approved by an accredited provider or approver of CNE.
- Each course applies one time only in the recertification period regardless of how many times the course is taught.
- One hour of presentation = 3 CH, with a maximum of 45 CH per recertification period.
  - Example 1: A college level medical-surgical course of 12 one-hour class sessions is presented during a semester for a 3-credit course. (12 x 3 = 36 CH) The educator may claim 36 CH.
  - Example 2: An RN presents a 2-hour CNE class one time only within the health care system. (2 x 3 = 6 CH) The RN may claim 6 CH.
- If audited, a letter from the event organizer must be provided.

5. **Professional Publications**
The format must be a manuscript, research paper, book, or book chapter and must be published by a recognized publisher or professional journal.
- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical-surgical or professional development, depending on the content.
- A maximum of 25 CH per recertification period is allowed for this category.
  - Authors, co-authors, or editors of a book earn 25 CH.
  - Authors or co-authors of a book chapter earn 10 CH.
  - Authors or co-authors of a published article earn 5 CH.
- If audited, the following materials must be submitted: Title of publication; Name of publication, if book chapter or article; Publisher; Date; Objectives; and Bibliography.

6. **Conference Poster Presentation**
The poster must be relevant to medical-surgical nursing and presented at a regional or national meeting.
- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical-surgical or professional development, depending on content.
- Each poster will be counted only once during the recertification period, regardless of how many times the poster is presented.
- One poster = 5 CH, with a maximum of 20 CH per recertification period.
- If audited, proof of poster development and presentation must be provided (e.g., meeting syllabus).

7. **Multimedia Program Development**
This category includes the development of program content and script for videotapes, audiotapes, or other electronic media.
- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical-surgical or professional development, depending on content.
- The program must be awarded contact hours.
- The production of one 60 minute program = 5 CH, with a maximum of 20 CH per recertification period.
- If audited, the following materials must be submitted: Media type; Objectives; Script or program outline; and Bibliography.
8. **Research and Evidence-Based Practice Projects**

This category includes research projects that have been approved by the Investigational Review Board (IRB) in your facility in which you are clearly identified as being one of the primary investigators.

This category also includes evidence-based practice projects that have been given exempt status by the IRB or have been implemented in your facility and are reflected in its policies, procedures or clinical guidelines. You must be clearly identified as being one of the primary champions in the development, implementation and evaluation of the project.

- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical surgical nursing practice or professional development.
- A copy of the research proposal submitted to your facility’s IRB or the evidence-based practice project must be included.
- One research project = 30 CH, with a maximum of 30 CH per recertification period.
- One evidence-based practice project = 15 CH, with a maximum of 15 CH per certification period.

9. **Membership on a National Nursing Organization Board or National Committee Chair**

- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward professional development.
- One hour of participation = 1 CH with a maximum of 5 CH per recertification period.
- If audited, a letter verifying service from the president of the national nursing organization must be provided.

10. **Test Development/Item Writing for MSNCB**

Members of the MSNCB Test Development/Item Writer Committee may count their volunteer time when recertifying.

- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward medical-surgical practice.
- One weekend session = 5 CH with a maximum of 20 CH per recertification period.

11. **CMSRN Recertification Committee**

Members of the CMSRN Recertification Committee may count their volunteer time when recertifying.

- Contact hours in this category may be counted toward professional development.
- 2 CH/year with a maximum of 10 CH per recertification period.

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**CONTACT HOUR REPORTING**

Here are some helpful tips for earning and reporting contact hours.

- Enter your hours in your CMSRN Tracker. You may use the Tracker whether you are applying online or by mail. If applying by mail, indicate you have reported contact hours.
- Earn and self-report your contact hours continuously throughout your five year certification period. Self-reported contact hours are manually reviewed for verification by MSNCB staff. Please allow up to 10 business days after entering hours for your Tracker to be updated.
- You may choose to document any or all of your contact hours by using the Contact Hour Documentation Form(s) included on pages E-G of the CMSRN Recertification & Exam Exemption Application found at msncb.org.

When reporting preceptor/mentor hours, you must submit the Preceptor/Mentor Verification Form (found on page D of the application) for the hours to be considered.

If reporting academic courses, you must submit a copy of your unofficial transcript before your contact hours are considered. You may mail, fax, or email this form to the National Office.

Do not send certificates with your renewal. Copies of certificates are required only if audited.

Visit msncb.org for more information on planning for recertification, the CMSRN Tracker, and more.