



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGICAL NURSES

INTRODUCTION

The American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses supports and encourages the attainment and maintenance of specialty nursing certification specific to plastic surgical nursing and aesthetic nursing.

To abet this goal, the Plastic Surgical Nursing Certification Board (PSNCB) collaborates with the Center for Nursing Education and Testing (C-NET) in the development, administration, and evaluation of two certification exams. The Certified Plastic Surgical Nurse (CPSN) exam and the Certified Aesthetic Nurse Specialist (CANS) exam are offered to registered nurses meeting the stringent criterion for certification.

The CPSN and CANS credentials are conferred upon registered nurses who have met the specialty practice requirement and have demonstrated the advanced knowledge assessed by the certification exams. These credentials are maintained through the recertification process.

RATIONALE

Specialty certification is a process based on predetermined standards and qualifications of an individual RN's qualifications and competence for practice in a defined functional or clinical area of practice. Most certifications are created, sponsored, or affiliated with professional associations interested in raising standards. Specialty certification enhances patient safety in health care by validating that practice is consistent with standards identified by a specialty organization. Plastic surgical and aesthetic nursing certification provides validation of the specialized knowledge and experience required for competent performance.

- The process by which CPSN (Certified Plastic Surgical Nurse) and CANS (Certified Aesthetic Nurse Specialist) credentials are gained and maintained is consistent with the mission of the ASPSN.
- Certification establishes an advanced educational standard and promotes continuing education.
- Certification is linked to the utilization of evidence based practice, enhanced patient safety, competency and optimized patient outcomes.
- Certification fosters personal growth, career advancement and professional prestige.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGICAL NURSES POSITION/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Registered Nurses practicing in the field of plastic surgery nursing or aesthetic nursing are encouraged to obtain the appropriate credentials-CPSN or CANS.
- The CPSN candidate must have a minimum of two (2) years plastic surgical nursing experience as a registered nurse in a general staff, administrative, teaching or research capacity within three (3) years prior to application.
- The CPSN candidate must have spent 1,000 practice hours in plastic surgical nursing during two (2) of the preceding three (3) years.
- The CANS candidate must work in collaboration or in a practice with a physician who is Board Certified in one of the following specialties: Plastic/Aesthetic Surgery, Dermatology, Facial Plastic Surgery (ENT) or Ophthalmology.
- The CANS candidate must have a minimum of two (2) years nursing experience as a registered nurse within one of the listed Core Specialties above in a general staff, administrative, teaching, or research capacity prior to application.
- The CANS candidate must have spent at least one thousand (1,000) practice hours within the core specialties during the preceding two (2) years.
- The CANS candidate must have their Supervising Core Physician endorse their application.

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DISCLAIMER

These clinical practice guidelines and/or recommendations and/or other guidance published herein are provided by the American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making. The information should not be relied upon as being complete and should not be considered inclusive of all proper treatments, methods of care, or as a statement of the standard of care. All guidelines and recommendations require periodic revision to ensure that clinicians utilize appropriate procedures, and that the materials encompass the recent critical review of literature and expert opinion. The reader must realize that clinical judgment may justify a course of action outside of the recommendations contained herein.

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Revised:

Approved by ASPSN Board of Directors: