



**News Release**

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## American Board of Nursing Specialties Selects Recipient of the 2008 Nursing Certification Advocacy Award

**AURORA, Ohio, April 28, 2008** | The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) announced today that Orlando Regional Healthcare (ORH) in Orlando, Florida, was selected as the recipient of the *2008 ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy*. The announcement was made by Victoria Norton, Chair of the ABNS Awards and Recognition Committee, at the spring 2008 ABNS Assembly Meeting, held February 29 - March 1, 2008, in San Diego, California.

Since its founding in 1991, ABNS has worked to create uniformity in nursing certification and to increase public awareness of the value of quality certification. The *ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy* was developed as a means to publicly recognize organizations, facilities, or departments that advocate for, or promote, specialty nursing certification.

“Nurses at Orlando Regional Healthcare are continuously looking for ways to enhance their knowledge and skills,” noted John Hillenmeyer, President and CEO of Orlando Regional Healthcare. “I am aware that one of those ways is by attaining national certification in their area of specialty. To assist with that goal, we have provided our nurses with many resources that can and do support them in attaining national certification,” he added.

“There are approximately 2900 direct care registered nurses in the Orlando Regional Healthcare organization and of that number, 18% are certified. Across the organization, there are approximately 220 nursing leaders, which include assistant nurse managers, managers and

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administrators and based on 2006 data, approximately 31% of their nursing leaders are certified,” acknowledged Norton. “Participants in the ORH program are rewarded for successful completion of national certification with a \$125 lump sum award in addition to reimbursement, at the member rate, of the exam fee and one national certification a year per nurse is reimbursed. Starting in 2002 and continuing into 2008, the following specialty certification review courses have been offered at ORH: Medical Surgical; Oncology; Nursing Administration; Post Anesthesia; Ambulatory Perianesthesia; Inpatient Obstetrics; Pediatric Critical Care. Some courses were offered at no cost to their nurses while other course fees were reimbursed. Certified RNs who sponsor, coach and mentor peer RNs are also eligible for the \$125 lump sum award subject to the terms and conditions of their program. Certified RNs can sponsor no more than five RNs per year while the various campuses at ORH have and will continue to be a testing sites for the Pediatric and some American Nurses Credentialing Center’s examinations” Norton added. “Through efforts such as those demonstrated in the nomination application submitted, the ABNS vision – *specialty nursing certification is THE standard by which the public recognizes quality nursing care* – will be achieved!”

In 2004, ORH developed and implemented the “Set the Pace” program, which endorses over 72 national specialty nursing certifications and encourages registered nurses to achieve and maintain certification in their area of practice,” stated Anne Peach, MSN, RN, CNAA, BC, Vice President of Nursing at Orlando Regional Healthcare. “Over the three and a half years that this initiative has been in existence, we continue to observe an increase in the number of dollars that have been awarded to nurses and an increase in the number of certified nurses at the bedside,” see added.

Among the criteria necessary to win this award, the organization must document the total number of direct patient care RNs and the number and percentage of those direct patient care RNs who are certified in specialty nursing as well as the total number of nursing managers in the organization and the number and percentage of those nursing managers who are certified.

Other criteria include how the organization supports those nurses interested in seeking certification by providing reimbursement of certification examination fees, providing

certification examination review courses or reimbursing for attendance at a review course, and/or providing paid time off to take certification examination or review course.

ABNS President-Elect, Mary O’Neale, RN, MSN, CNOR, will present the award in person to Orlando Regional Healthcare and sections of the Award Application may be posted on the ABNS Website so that others may see the results of successful certification promotion and its implications on patient care.

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***Editors Note:***

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a membership organization that maintains a national peer review program for nursing specialty certification. The mission of ABNS is to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders. Currently, thirty-one ABNS Regular Member and one Associate Member Organizations represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its eleven Affiliate Members include providers of key certification–related testing products and services. One Public Member represents the consumer’s perspectives on issues about specialty nursing certification. For further information about ABNS, visit [www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org) or email Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, at [ABNSCEO@aol.com](mailto:ABNSCEO@aol.com).

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