



## News Release

For more information call:  
Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer, ABNS  
330-995-9172

### ***Nursing Management*** Publishes ABNS Authored Article on Value of Specialty Nursing Certification

AURORA, Ohio, July 2005 ~ The May 2005 issue of *Nursing Management* featured ***Specialty Certification: More Than a Title*** as its cover story. This article, written by representatives of the Research Committee of the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a summary and reflection of a survey conducted by ABNS.

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. This article describes a survey conducted by ABNS about perceptions of certified registered nurses by nurse managers and how nursing certification is recognized and /or supported in healthcare institutions.

ABNS collected 139 completed surveys from nurses from 35 different states and several foreign countries while exhibiting at a major nursing management conference. The typical respondent was a nurse manager working in a not-for-profit acute care hospital with an average of size of 360 beds.

The results of the study can be divided into three distinct categories: preferences for a certified versus a noncertified nurse; the incentives used to promote and recognize specialty nursing certification in respondents' institutions; and perceptions about the differences in performance by certified and noncertified nurses. The survey results provide insight about the role certification plays in the eyes of nurse managers.

“This survey produced many predictable results, but also some interesting trends and new unanswered questions,” noted Bonnie Niebuhr, CEO of ABNS. “We look forward to more

research to further investigate what role specialty nursing certification plays in the patient care scenario,” she added.

The survey responses clearly indicated that nurse managers value specialty nursing certification. This is an unequivocal indication of the prestige and legitimacy that nursing certification has earned from nurse managers and administrators. The fact that 58% of respondents weren’t certified also supports the findings of the survey, demonstrating that even without holding certification themselves, they identified the importance of nursing certification among their staff members.

***ABOUT THE AUTHORS*** ~ Marilyn Frank Stromborg is presidential research professor and chair of Northern Illinois University School of Nursing, DeKalb, IL; Bonnie Niebuhr is chief executive officer of ABNS, Aurora, OH; Suzanne Prevost is associate professor of Middle Tennessee State University School of Nursing, Murfreesboro, TN; Larry Fabrey is vice president of measurement research at Applied Measurement Professional, Inc., Lenexa, KS; Patricia Muenzen is associate director of research at Professional Examination Service, New York, NY; Carol Spence is research administrator at RAND Center to Improve Care of the Dying, Chevy Chase, MD; Jan Towers is director of certification at American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Washington, DC; Wendy Valentine is QA/QI nurse manager at The Everett Clinic surgery centers, Everett, WA.

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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, twenty-seven ABNS Regular Member and one Associate Member Organizations represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its ten 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).

**610 Thornhill Lane ~ Aurora, OH 44202**  
**Phone: 330-995-9172 Fax: 330-995-9743 ~ E-mail: [ABNSCEO@aol.com](mailto:ABNSCEO@aol.com) ~ [www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org)**

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