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ABSNC Update – ABNS Fall Assembly

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ONGOING STANDARDS REVIEW AS A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY



- Although ABSNC policy requires biennial review as a minimum, ABSNC Directors are committed to ongoing review as a method to clarify standards for certifying organizations.
- Any approved changes would be published for implementation the following January 1.



STANDARD 3

ORGANIZATIONAL AUTONOMY

- 3.1 a-p – A clerical change only: “...please align each section of the narrative with its corresponding element in the list.”
 - For every standard with more than three criteria, applicants will be asked to provide the answer immediately adjacent to the sub-item.
 - Will apply to standards 3.1, 7.5, 11.1
- This format change by applicants will allow Review Teams to more easily correlate responses with the relevant standard.



AN EXAMPLE...

Standard 3.1	
3.1a Administrative authority	3.1a CERTIFYING ORGANIZATION has sole responsibility for administering the XYZ examination (see linked policy).
3.1b Item development and ownership	3.1b Per (linked policy), CERTIFYING ORGANIZATION independently develops and owns all items on the XYZ examination.
3.1c Examination content and construction	3.1c See linked policy.



ABOUT A SHARED DATA BASE

- 3.1p
 - Sole responsibility of certifying organization concerning “all candidate, certificant, and subject matter expert (SME) data.”
- **Addition after the statement at the left:**
 - “ABSNC recognizes a certifying organization may share a data base with an associated member organization. If this is the case, also provide documentation to address the certifying organization’s ownership of and controlled access to candidate, certificant, and SME data.”



STANDARD 4

NON-DISCRIMINATION

- Current request (standards 4.1 and 4.2) for policies and procedures from BOTH the certifying organization and the test vendor has been problematic for numerous applicants.
 - Many vendors have procedures only.
 - Others may be hesitant to release proprietary information for an accreditation application.
- Revised standards 4.1 and 4.2 now request certifying organization's policy ONLY along with publicly available evidence regarding certifying organization's efforts to avoid bias and sensitivity.
- Also now includes clarification to standard 4.4 that "N/A" should be used if no accommodations were requested in the previous 5 years.



STANDARD 5

PUBLIC MEMBER



- ABSNC continues to clarify this standard and help applicants demonstrate how they meet it.
- 5.1a will solely request “...**bylaws or policies**...that describe general qualifications of the Public Member” (no reference to criteria).
- NEW 5.2: “**Describe** qualifications of the current Public Member based on the criteria in this standard.”
- 5.1 now deals with legal documents, while 5.2 specifically addresses organizational adherence to standard in selection of the Public Member.



STANDARD 6 ELIGIBILITY

- Organizations with advanced practice nurse (APN) and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) programs are required to verify **ALL** eligibility criteria on **ALL** candidates (clarification of 6.5).
- Addition to rationale for APNs and APRNs: “Verification of initial certification eligibility criteria cannot be completed **solely** through the use of random audit or by candidate attestation.”



STANDARD 7 - VALIDITY

- Standard 7.1 now bulleted for clarity (no change):
 - **Submit** a copy of the most current practice analysis report (whether empirical or logical approach) with authors of the report identified. If the practice analysis is older than 5 years:
 - a. Document the rationale for not conducting a practice analysis during the past 5 years, including documents supporting the decision (e.g., meeting minutes).
 - b. Describe the schedule to be followed for updating the practice analysis within the next 1-2 years.



STANDARD 11

TEST SECURITY

- Addressing electronic testing and practice/sample exams with greater clarity
 - Added to rationale: “The certifying organization also must have a defined process for maintaining security of electronically reviewed or modified items or examination forms.”
- Added to rationale: “If practice or sample items are offered, retired certification examination items may be used. **The certification organization must have policies and procedures regarding development of practice or sample examination items to mitigate risks to the security of the active certification examination.**”
- Added to 11.1: “Shipping or electronic transfer of tests...”
- 11.3: **P&P requested** to describe how practice/sample exams are developed so as not to compromise security of current examination.



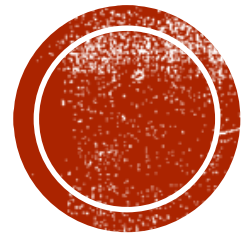
STANDARD 12

PASSING SCORE



- 12.5 and 12.5b now clearly separate responsibilities of certifying organization and testing vendor regarding establishment of passing score.
 - No change in previous intent of standard.
- Watch for notice of additional expected revision concerning 12.2 and representativeness of passing point panel based on candidate demographics.





QUESTIONS?