

FHM Instructor Certification

Frequently Asked Questions

Voucher code: D6QHFC

Why do I need to become certified in certification in either Electronic Fetal Monitoring (C-EFM®) or Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB®)?

With the ever-changing healthcare field, certification demonstrates continuing competence and intention of excellence in clinical performance. Achievement of continuing education and knowledge competence in fetal heart monitoring demonstrates your commitment to life-long learning, and professional growth. Current best practice for instructors and educators is to achieve and maintain certification in their areas of teaching.

I have been an instructor for many years without certification, why do I need to become certified now?

The decision to include certification as a requirement for FHM Instructors was made after reviewing requirements for other instructional programs. For example, Neonatal Resuscitation Provider (NRP) instructors are required to pass a test every two years to demonstrate competence as an instructor. Certification will demonstrate continued competence and professional growth around fetal monitoring.

How long do I have to become certified?

All instructors need to demonstrate certification in Inpatient Obstetrics or Electronic Fetal Monitoring no later than May 31, 2023.

While there are two years to meet this AWHONN requirement, any instructor who signs up and completes the certification exam within the first year will be offered a “second chance free” voucher from NCC to use if the first attempt in certification is not successful. This second chance free voucher will expire on May 13, 2022. More information on the second chance free may be found on the NCC website (see below or go to <https://www.nccwebsite.org/certification-exams/apply-for-exam-with-review-course-voucher>).

From the NCC website:

Apply for Exam with Review Course Voucher

Only online registrations on this website are accepted. Applications submitted by mail, fax, or email will not be accepted and will be returned to the individual. Vouchers cannot be transferred or used by anyone other than the registrant who completed the review course and received the voucher

code directly from the review provider. Currently, there is an AWOHNN contract in place for EFM and OPS instructors as well (the same rules apply as review course vouchers).

You will need a voucher (test) code from the review course provider and a certificate of completion in order to apply. AWOHNN EFM and OPS instructors will also need a voucher code from AWOHNN. Voucher codes have expiration dates that are provided to you after completion of the review course. These dates are based on the contract year of the review program or AWOHNN contract. The voucher must be used for exam registration prior to the expiration of the voucher. After the expiration date, the voucher will no longer be valid for any registrant who did not use it. There are no exceptions for any reason.

The voucher code can only be used by candidates who complete a review course during the time the voucher code is in effect. The review course completion date must be on the certificate of completion granted by the provider. For AWOHNN instructors retrieve your instructor certificate on the same day that you register for the exam, to demonstrate it is current. Although candidates may take several review courses in a year for different NCC certifications, only one voucher code per year may be used that offers a second chance free promotion. There are no exceptions for any reason.

What happens if I do not become certified by the deadline of May 2023?

You will not be able to teach a fetal monitoring course. This process will be similar to the annual Conflict of Interest (COI) statement that instructors sign. If the COI is not signed, you will be unable to schedule or teach a course. Similarly, if your certification is not up-to-date and current on your instructor page, you will be unable to schedule or teach a course.

How can I best prepare for the certification exam?

NCC provides resources to prepare for each exam with guidance on the best resources to use to study for the exams, including the following AWHONN resources:

- AWHONN, Fetal Heart Monitoring, Position Statement, 2018.
- AWHONN, Continuous Labor Support for Every Woman, Position Statement, 2018.
- AWHONN, Nursing Care and Management of the Second Stage of Labor, 3rd ed, Evidence Based Guideline, 2019.
- Lyndon, A., & Ali, L. U. (2015). *Fetal heart monitoring principles and practices* (5th ed). AWHONN, Kendall Hunt.
- Lyndon, A. & Wisner, K. (2021). *Fetal heart monitoring principles and practices* (6th ed). AWHONN, Kendall Hunt.
- Simpson et al., (2021). *Perinatal nursing* (5th ed.). Wolters Kluwer
- Troiano et al. (2019). *High-Risk & Critical Care Obstetrics* (4th ed). Wolters Kluwer

This is not a comprehensive list of study resources. Please refer to the Candidate Guide for each exam found on the NCC site for the most current list of recommended study resources.

How much does the certification exam cost?

NCC sets the fees for certification exams. The fees for the exams are listed on the NCC website and are subject to change.

Will AWHONN reimburse me for the cost of the certification exam?

AWHONN will not reimburse you for the cost of the certification exam. However, we recommend that you check with the facility where you are employed to see if reimbursement is available for certification within your specialty.

What do I need to do once I become certified?

Once you become certified in either Electronic Fetal Monitoring (C-EFM®) or Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB®), please log into your instructor page and input your NCC number (found on your certificate) and the expiration date. Document continued certification maintenance on the instructor page.

What if I am already certified with NCC? Do I need to do anything?

If you are already certified by NCC in either Electronic Fetal Monitoring (C-EFM®) or Inpatient Obstetric Nursing (RNC-OB®), please log into your instructor page and input your NCC number (found on your certificate) and the expiration date. Document continued certification maintenance on the instructor page.

Are there any other certifications that will be accepted?

In reviewing the requests to consider other certifications in place of the RNC-OB® or C-EFM®, an internal review committee has determined that only the C-EFM® and RNC-OB® certifications will be accepted at this time.

The rationale for this decision is as follows:

- *The C-EFM® requires continuing education in fetal monitoring, demonstrating continued professional development and education in the field of fetal monitoring. The RNC-OB® requires a continuing competency assessment (CCA) every three years, including testing on fetal monitoring.*
- *The other NCC certifications do not currently require a certain number or percentage of fetal monitoring contact hours **or** fetal monitoring is not included in the CCA.*

Additionally, other certifications brought forward for consideration had minimal/little ongoing fetal monitoring requirements or did not specify fetal monitoring contact hour requirements by the certifying agency.

The other certifications that were reviewed include:

- *Maternal Newborn Nursing (RNC-MNN®)*
- *Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)*
- *Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)*
- *Nurse Professional Development Certification (NPD-BC)*
- *Certified Registered Flight Nurse (CRFN)*
- *High Risk Obstetric Nursing (RNC-HROB)*
- *Perinatal Nursing (ANCC Certification)*

For additional questions, please contact the FHM Team at fhm@awhonn.org