



**TESTIMONY OF
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMPETENCY TESTING (NCCT)
BY**

KAY BERTRAND, VICE PRESIDENT

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 16, 2016

SUPPORTING

HB-5129, AAC THE ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES BY PHARMACISTS AND MEDICAL ASSISTANTS AND THE LISTING OF CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Representative Ritter, Senator Gerratana, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan, and Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Committee. My name is Kay Bertrand and I am the Vice President of Exam Development for the National Center of Competency Testing (NCCT). On behalf of NCCT, I am offering this testimony in support of House Bill 5129 (Sections 2 & 3), "An Act Concerning The Administration Of Vaccines By Pharmacists And Medical Assistants And The Listing Of Certified Medical Assistants", as currently drafted.

NCCT Overview

The National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT) is a nationally recognized credentialing organization that has tested more than 450,000 candidates throughout the United States since 1989. NCCT currently offers five healthcare certifications that have been awarded accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), including its National Certified Medical Assistant (NCMA) certification program. To be eligible for the NCMA (NCCT) certification, candidates must meet qualifications that include both critical skills and successful challenge of a written examination. Currently, five Connecticut educational institutions produce Medical Assistant graduates that are eligible for NCMA testing (Quinebaug Valley Community College; Ridley-Lowell Business & Technical Institute in both Danbury and New London; Wallingford Adult Education; Three Rivers Community College). In addition, there are at least 266 actively certified NCMA practitioners in the state of Connecticut at this time. Maintenance of active certification status requires completion of fourteen clock hours of approved continuing education each year.

NCCT Position

NCCT supports HB-5129 (Sections 2 & 3) in its present form as it pertains to the scope of practice of Medical Assistants in Connecticut for the following reasons:

- All of the specified credentialing organizations in the bill hold Medical Assistant certification programs that have been awarded accreditation by the NCCA. As a matter of equity, there is no reason to limit legislation to any single credentialing organization when all their Medical Assistant certification programs hold the same accreditation.
- All of the specified accredited bodies are recognized by either the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the United States Department of Education (USDE) and now include both institutional and programmatic accreditors. Both types of accreditation serve a purpose; one is not more important than another.
- NCCT believes it is appropriate for the primary care providers referenced in the bill to supervise medical assistant practice directly as defined.
- NCCT believes it is appropriate for the state of Connecticut to have a listing of credentialed medical assistants for public transparency.
- NCCT believes it is appropriate for NCMA Medical Assistants in Connecticut to be able to perform injections in response to growing workplace demands. Accompanying this testimony is the NCCT Medical Assistant Detailed Test Plan (DTP). This DTP is a “blueprint” so-to-speak, derived from a national job analysis performed in 2014 and updated every five years, and is essentially a list of the job tasks determined to be IMPORTANT in the Medical Assistant job role across the country. Importance is determined by asking thousands of *working practitioners* to rate both the *significance* and *frequency* of task performance, item by item. The National Certified Medical Assistant (NCCT) certification examination is built directly from this DTP, and the critical skill derived from it as well. Please note that in the first category, Pharmacology, there are several types of injections (including intradermal, ID) that are part of this national list. Injections are performed under the direct supervision of a primary care provider, typically a physician, in the great majority of states.

Protection of the public is important to the Mission and Goals of the National Center for Competency Testing, and NCCT believes HB-5129 supports both as currently drafted. Should members of the Committee have any questions or if I may be able to provide additional information, please feel free to contact me via phone or email at: (800) 410-7410 or kay@ncctinc.com; or Andy Markowski of Statehouse Associates at (860) 256-8295. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of NCCT’s comments. We respectfully ask for passage of the bill.



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EX-0508

NCMA National Certified Medical Assistant Detailed Test Plan

Rev: April 2015

NCMA Detailed Test Plan

This detailed test plan reflects the results of a national job analysis study that determined the critical job competencies to be tested by NCCT in this certification examination. It contains 150 scored items, 15 unscored pretest items, and candidates are allowed three (3) hours to complete the examination.

Number of Scored Items

Content Categories

13

Content Category: Pharmacology

- Consult pharmaceutical references to check medications (e.g., drug classification, contraindications, side effects, action, routes of administration, and adverse reactions).
- Perform basic medication related calculations.
- Comply with DEA and other regulatory agency guidelines for ordering, dispensing, documenting, and storing drugs.
- Document medication administration errors.
- Comply with legal requirements for completion of prescriptions and authorization of refills.
- Identify commonly used medications by generic and brand names.
- Recognize general indications for common therapeutic medications used (e.g., insulin for diabetics, etc.).
- Demonstrate safe medication preparation, administration, and documentation (e.g., dosage calculation, route, types of injections, and injection sites).
- Administer medication orally.
- Administer medication subcutaneously (SQ).
- Administer medication intramuscularly (IM).
- Administer medication intradermally (ID).
- Administer medication by inhalation.
- Document medication administration, prescriptions, and refills.

Content Category: Medical Procedures

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Subcategory: Infection, Exposure Control, and Safety

- Follow CDC Standard Precautions and transmission precautions (i.e. airborne, contact, droplet, hand hygiene).
- Comply with OSHA standards for Health Care Workers (e.g., blood borne pathogens, MSDS, needlesticks, bodily fluids).
- Perform general medical asepsis.
- Perform surgical asepsis.
- Implement cleansing, disinfection, and sterilization as needed.
- Handle and dispose of biohazardous waste.
- Handle and dispose of chemicals.