



Professional Development Options

	Certification	Certificate & Microcredential	Continuing Education (CE)
What is it?	Validates a comprehensive body of knowledge associated with a specialty area of practice based on U.S. standards.	Earning the microcredential demonstrates mastery of the knowledge and skills gained through the certificate program.	Indicates the completion of a <i>learning activity</i> based on U.S. practice standards; may or may not include a learning assessment
Does PNCB offer it?	Yes, PNCB offers four certifications: • Certified Nurse Practitioner (CPN) • Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care (CPNP-PC) • Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Acute Care (CPNP-AC) • Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist (PMHS)	Yes, PNCB offers three Activate programs: • Core Concepts in Adolescence • Essential Knowledge in Adolescent Health & Well-Being • Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health in Hospital and Specialty Settings	Yes, a variety of CE modules are available from PNCB, including Pediatric Updates for APRNs, low- and no-cost options, and live webinars
Who is it for?	CPN for RNs who have a certain number of hours caring for the pediatric population. CPNP-PC, CPNP-AC: graduates of AC, PC or dual PNP programs; PMHS: APRNs with scope of practice for pediatric population in primary care.	No prerequisites. To earn the microcredential, the certificate program must be completed.	No prerequisites.
How is it earned?	By passing a certification exam.	By passing a microcredential assessment.	Completion of the CE; may include a post-exam or evaluation.
What is the value?	Demonstrates that you have met specific practice hour and licensing eligibility criteria. Validates specialty practice competence through nationally accepted standards. CPNP-PC and CPNP-AC are required for licensure in most states.	Validates specific knowledge in a defined area.	Required for continued licensure and certification renewal. May be used on CVs to enhance marketability.
Renewal requirements?	Yes, annual recertification.	Yes, microcredential maintenance every 2 years.	No.
Is it accredited?	Yes, all four exams are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).	No, but the certificate programs offer accredited CE contact hours.	Yes, by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP).
How is it displayed?	Listed after your name following your degree(s) and RN/APRN license	Added to resume, CV, and/or online profile(s)	Not displayed; tracked for professional development
Examples	CPN, CPNP-AC, CPNP-PC, CPNP-PC/AC, PMHS	Activate Microcredential Digital Badge	CE hours