

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF NEUROSCIENCE NURSING



Stroke Certified Registered Nurse (SCRN)[™]

2018 Recertification Handbook

For SCRNs initially certified in 2013

Application Deadline for Recertify by Exam: August 17, 2018*
Application Deadline for Recertify by CE: October 1, 2018*

Late Fee Deadline: January 31, 2019

No applications will be accepted after 5:00 PM (Central), January 31, 2019

*Applications must be received at the ABNN Office by 5:00 pm Central Time.
Application forms must be completed on the web and printed if submitting by paper.

The American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
8735 W. Higgins Rd. Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60631
Toll-free: 888-557-2266 | 847-375-4733 | Fax: 847-375-6430
www.ABNNcertification.org
info@abnncertification.org

American Board of Neuroscience Nursing Recertification Program

Duration of Certification

SCRN certification is recognized for a period of five (5) years. The actual expiration date of a SCRN certificate is December 31st of the 5th complete year after certification (i.e., certification of SCRNs initially certified in 2013 expires on December 31, 2018). To renew certification, the certificant may either apply to retake the certification exam or submit documentation of the required continuing education hours related to stroke care. Early in the year that his or her certification expires, ABNN will notify candidates that their certification is due. **However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the SCRN to initiate the recertification process as well as to provide ABNN with current contact information.**

Eligibility for Recertification

- Current licensure as a registered nurse in the United States or Canada.

OPTION 1

4,160 practice hours that includes the care of stroke patients in the past 5 years (equivalent to 2 years full-time work)

and

Retaking of the certification exam

OPTION 2

4,160 practice hours that includes the care of stroke patients in the past 5 years (equivalent to 2 years full-time work)

and

50 continuing education hours (see following pages for specific categories)

OPTION 3

2,500 practice hours that includes the care of stroke patients in the past 5 years (part-time)

and

75 continuing education hours (see following pages for specific categories)

- Stroke nursing practice includes clinical practice, consultation, research, administration or education in the stroke field.
- An approved CE offering or program is one approved by a state or national organization authorized to grant continuing education credit such as the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, a state nurses association, a state board of nursing, or a hospital or other institution accredited as a provider by a national or state nursing organization, such as the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). In the event the application lists attendance at a seminar not meeting this definition, additional documentation is required.
- **Candidates for recertification who select Option 1 and fail the examination may not then recertify with continuing education hours.**

Options 2 & 3: Recertification by Continuing Education (CE) Hours Credit

The activities documented must pertain to the application or dissemination of knowledge that the certified stroke nurse is required to know to stay current in practice. All items submitted for CE credit, regardless of category, **must** be stroke-related. Any item that is not stroke-related will not be accepted. There are six categories of CE eligible for recertification credit:

Category 1: Stroke Nursing Education

Category 2: Program or Project Activities

Category 3: Research

Category 4: Teaching

Category 5: Publication

Category 6: Involvement in Professional Organizations

Of the required CE hours, a **minimum** of twenty (**20**) under Option 2 or thirty (**30**) under Option 3 must be in Category 1. **All 50 (75) CE hours may be obtained in Category 1.** Or, once the required CE for Category 1 is obtained, the remaining CE can be earned in any and all of the other five categories. Examples of acceptable CE activities broken down by category are listed below.

Category 1: Stroke Nursing Education. A **minimum** of twenty (**20**) under Option 2 or thirty (**30**) under Option 3 CE hours must be attended in stroke nursing courses approved by state or national organizations authorized to grant nursing continuing education credit, a state board of nursing, or an institution accredited to grant approval by a national or state nursing organization.

The following examples can be submitted for CE under Category 1: Stroke Nursing Education

- a. Courses attended with DOCUMENTED stroke nursing content approved or accredited by ANCC (e.g., the AANN annual meeting), state boards of nursing, AACN, Association of Rehabilitation Nurses, or other nursing CE approvers.
- b. Stroke nursing home study courses approved by similar accrediting bodies.
- c. Internet or on-line Stroke nursing courses approved as above (e.g., AANN's on-line *JNN* articles).
- d. Courses taken for academic credit from an accredited college or university and specific to stroke. One quarter credit hour equals ten (10) CE hours. One semester credit hour equals fifteen (15) CE hours.
- e. Stroke CMEs. One CME equals one (1) CE hour.

If you attended a course that was only partially or not clearly stroke-related, or the title of the course does not explicitly indicate stroke content, submission of a course outline is required to enable the determination of the appropriate amount of stroke nursing credit. For example, a course titled "2006 Critical Care Update" may contain some stroke content, but based on the title alone this will not be clear to the reviewer unless a course syllabus or outline is submitted.

Please see the exam content outline on page 6.

For all attendance or home study activities, each of the following equals **one (1) CE hour**:

- 60 minutes of lecture
- 0.1 continuing education unit (CEU)
- 1 continuing education recognition point (CERP)

Applicants wishing to count programs/courses that do not carry accredited nursing CE or medical CME credit must include the full name and description of the program, including its specific stroke content (e.g., "grand rounds" does not qualify).

Category 2: Program or Project Activities. This category does not have a minimum or maximum for the recertification cycle, although some activities have yearly maximums. Please review the following for a list of acceptable activities and the corresponding CE amounts that can be submitted. All activities must be stroke-related. Activities that are not stroke-related will not be accepted.

- a. Service on a stroke-related committee for 1 year = 3 CE
- includes committees that are institutional or employer-based
- b. Development of a stroke teaching tool for patients or staff = 3 CE
- c. Development of a QI project related to care of stroke patients = 3 CE (maximum 10 per year)
- d. Development of an original policy/procedure or competency-based tool related to the care of stroke patients = 3 CE
- e. Facilitation of a stroke-related support group for 1 hour = 1 CE (maximum of 7 per year)

Category 3: Research. This category does not have a minimum or maximum for the recertification cycle, although some activities have yearly maximums. Please review the following for a list of acceptable activities and the corresponding CE amounts that can be submitted. All activities must be stroke-related. Activities that are not stroke-related will not be accepted.

- a. PhD dissertation (subject matter must be applicable to care of stroke patients) = 25 CE
- Committee letter documenting completion and approval required.
- b. Master's thesis (subject matter must be applicable to care of stroke patients) = 15 CE
- Committee letter documenting completion and approval required.

- c. Grant proposal submission related to stroke care = 10 CE (maximum of 10 per year)
- d. Research project implementation (including data collection and recruitment) performed within the stroke population for 1 year = 5 CE

Category 4: Teaching. This category does not have a minimum or maximum for the recertification cycle, although some activities have yearly maximums. Please review the following for a list of acceptable activities and the corresponding CE amounts that can be submitted. All activities must be stroke-related. Activities that are not stroke-related will not be accepted.

- a. Presentation of stroke content at a conference or class for 60 minutes = 2 CE (maximum of 10 per year)
- b. Poster presentation of stroke content at conference = 2 CE
- c. Development and teaching of an academic course related to care of stroke patients for 1 semester credit hour = 15 CE
- d. Development and teaching of an academic course for related to care of stroke patients for 1 quarter credit hour = 10 CE
- e. Precepting a new stroke nurse for 80 hours = 10 CE

Category 5: Publication. Some items in this category have maximums for the recertification cycle. Please review the following for a list of acceptable activities and the corresponding CE amounts that can be submitted. All activities must be stroke-related. Activities that are not stroke-related will not be accepted.

- a. Writing or editing a chapter in a text = 10 CE (maximum of 40 per recertification cycle)
 - The chapter submitted for CE credit must be stroke-related, although the text it is included in may not be exclusively made up of stroke content.
- b. Publication of a stroke article in a peer reviewed journal = 5 CE (maximum of 20 per recertification cycle)
- c. Manuscript review of one stroke-related article for publication in the *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing* or other peer-reviewed journal = 3 CE (maximum of 20 per recertification cycle)
- d. Publication of an article written for a local journal or newsletter related to the care of stroke patients = 5 CE

Category 6: Involvement in Professional Organizations. Some items in this category have maximums for the recertification cycle. Please review the following for a list of acceptable activities and the corresponding CE amounts that can be submitted. All activities must be stroke-related. Activities that are not stroke-related will not be accepted.

- a. Service on the board of ABNN, the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), or the Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF) for one (1) year = 7 CE (maximum of 21 per recertification cycle)
- b. Development of five (5) SCRN items = 3 CE hours (maximum of 9 per recertification cycle)
- c. Serving on ABNN's SCRN Test Development Committee (TDC) for one (1) term (3 years) = 30 CE
- d. Serving on ABNN's SCRN Re-referencing Committee for one (1) year = 10 CE
Note: Assignment must be completed. No CE will be given for partial work.
- e. Volunteer/medical work for patient support organizations and/or missions that serve the stroke patient population for one year = 7 CE (maximum of 21 per recertification cycle)
- f. Committee member related to the care of stroke patients at the national or local level for one year = 7 CE (maximum of 21 per recertification cycle)

If submitted CE hours are not specifically listed in any of the categories above, you may be asked to submit supporting documentation.

I. ABNN SCRIN EXAM

(Based on 2011-2012 Role Delineation Study)

Disorders - Detailed Content Outline

I. Anatomy and Physiology – 12%

- A. Correlate deficits or expected complications to site of injury.
- B. Understand physiology at cellular level (penumbra).
- C. Understand basic vascular anatomy.
- D. Understand basic brain structures.
- E. Understand stroke syndromes.
- F. Understand stroke mimics.
- G. Define stroke types.
- H. Understand neuroplasticity and stroke recovery.

II. Preventive Care – 10%

- A. Provide individualized preventive care through health education.
 - 1. Provide information about stroke, risk factors, lifestyle changes, and regular medical exams.
 - 2. Identify learning needs.
 - 3. Use appropriate teaching materials.
 - 4. Understand the role of the nurse in health education for stroke prevention.
 - 5. Provide education on the recognition of stroke symptoms and immediate access to care.
 - 6. Establish goals for medication management.
- B. Identify patients with risk factors.
 - 1. Assess modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors.
 - 2. Identify individuals and populations who are at risk for developing stroke.
 - 3. Refer patients identified as high risk for stroke to a medical provider.
- C. Establish nursing diagnosis and develop plan of care.
- D. Individualize care and education.
 - 1. Identify patients' limitations to care treatments.
 - 2. Assess patients' financial and social resources.
 - 3. Refer to multidisciplinary teams
- E. Participate in community health education regarding lifestyle changes.
 - 1. Identify, promote, and participate in health education regarding lifestyle changes (e.g., diet, exercise, tobacco cessation).
 - 2. Identify resources in community that have programs for lifestyle changes related to stroke prevention.
 - 3. Refer patients to appropriate community or healthcare agency regarding lifestyle changes.

III. Hyperacute Care – 20%

- A. Perform initial triage.
 - 1. Communicate effectively with pre-hospital personnel.
 - 2. Establish ABCs (Airway, Breathing, and Circulation).

3. Differentiate between anterior and posterior circulation signs and symptoms.
 4. Differentiate between hemorrhagic and ischemic signs and symptoms.
- B. Facilitate urgent diagnostics (e.g., telemedicine).
 - C. Perform baseline neuro assessment (e.g., NIHSS, physical exam).
 - D. Understand implications of various stroke scores (i.e., NIHSS, Hunt and Hess, GCS, ABCD 2, ICH, Fischer-Miller).
 - E. Take basic medical and symptom history.
 - F. Establish nursing diagnosis and develop plan of care.
 - G. Identify door to treatment times.
 - H. Administer thrombolytics.
 1. Calculate dosing.
 2. Identify inclusion and exclusion criteria.
 3. Know delivery method.
 4. Provide post-administration care.
 5. Identify post-administration complications.
 - I. Assess oxygenation.
 - J. Assess hydration.
 - K. Assess oral intake and swallow ability.
 - L. Manage blood pressure.
 - M. Manage blood glucose.
 - N. Stabilize patients for transfer to appropriate level of care.
 - O. Describe and facilitate advanced interventions for ischemic strokes (i.e., mechanical embolectomy, intra-arterial thrombolysis, hemicraniectomy).
 - P. Describe and facilitate interventions for hemorrhagic strokes.
 1. Correct coagulopathy.
 2. Understand need for ventriculostomy.
 3. Manage ICP (Intracranial Pressure).
 4. Understand surgical decompression.

IV. Stroke Diagnostics – 10%

- A. Understand indication for the following diagnostic tests:
 1. CT scan
 2. CT angiogram
 3. CT perfusion
 4. MRI
 5. MR venogram
 6. MR angiogram
 7. MR perfusion
 8. Cerebral angiography
 9. Lumbar puncture
 10. Transcranial Doppler
 11. Transthoracic echocardiogram
 12. Transesophageal echocardiogram
 13. EEG
 14. EKG/ECG
 15. Carotid duplex
 16. Chest x-ray
 17. Lab work (e.g., metabolic panel, coags, CBC)
- B. Understand the risks and benefits of the above-listed diagnostic

tests.

- C. Understand the pre- and post-care of the above-listed diagnostic tests.

V. Acute Care – 25%

A. Implement generalized stroke care.

1. Perform proper health assessment to identify patient's needs.
 - i. Identify and prioritize patient's needs.
 - ii. Use proper neurological assessment techniques (e.g., NIHSS, GCS, Cincinnati stroke scale).
 - iii. Conduct comprehensive assessment.
 - iv. Correlate patient's history with signs and symptoms.
 - v. Prioritize patient's needs based on assessment (e.g., seizure prophylaxis, communication abilities, mobility).
 - vi. Facilitate diagnostic tests according to stroke guidelines (e.g., echo, swallow study, MRI, Carotid studies, lab work).
 - vii. Monitor patient safety before, during, and after procedures.
2. Establish nursing diagnosis and develop plan of care.
3. Collaborate with other healthcare teams to use holistic approach in providing quality nursing care based on patient's identified needs.
 - i. Implement emergency nursing measures if needed.
 - ii. Monitor, report, and document:
 - a. Neuro assessments and vital signs
 - b. Cardiac rate and rhythm
 - c. Proper oxygenation and ventilation
 - d. Readiness for activity
 - e. Pain assessment and management
 - iii. Manage blood glucose.
 - iv. Manage body temperature.
 - v. Provide safety measures:
 - a. Aspiration precautions
 - b. Fall precautions
 - c. Seizure precautions
 - d. Skin precautions
 - e. Infection prevention protocols
 - f. Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis
 - g. Stress ulcer prophylaxis
 - vi. Provide personal care measures:
 - a. Patient positioning (e.g., affected extremities, splinting, turning)
 - b. Early mobilization
 - c. Range of motion
 - d. Elimination (i.e., bowel and bladder

- management)
 - vii. Provide a therapeutic environment.
 - a. Establish appropriate levels of stimulation
 - b. Orient to time, place, and person
 - c. Establish alternative means of communication if necessary
 - d. Adapt environment according to patient's deficit
 - e. Promote sleep hygiene
 - viii. Provide spiritual and psychosocial care.
 - a. Encourage verbalization of feelings
 - b. Identify positive coping mechanisms
 - c. Respect patient's culture
 - d. Assess patient's healthcare beliefs
 - e. Facilitate patient's spiritual needs
 - f. Assess and manage depression, anxiety, and fatigue
 - ix. Facilitate care goals and decision making:
 - a. Palliative care
 - b. Organ donation
 - x. Provide individualized education:
 - a. Patient
 - b. Family
 - xi. Assess patient's capabilities to perform ADLs and provide alternative means if necessary.
 - xii. Manage nutrition (i.e., specialty diets, consistency of diet, alternate forms of feeding).
- B. Implement care specific to ischemic stroke.
 1. Manage blood pressure:
 - i. Permissive hypertension.
 - ii. Orthostatic hypotension.
 2. Manage and assess patient post-thrombolytic administration:
 - i. Frequency of monitoring.
 - ii. Angioedema.
 - iii. Hemorrhagic conversion.
 - iv. Other bleeding.
 3. Manage patient post-interventional procedures and assess for complications:
 - i. Site and distal extremity assessment.
 - ii. Arterial sheath management.
 - iii. Hematoma.
 - iv. Arterial dissection.
 - v. Arterial thrombosis.
 - vi. Pseudo-aneurysms.
 4. Recognize signs of reperfusion syndrome.
 5. Manage hydration (e.g., euvoemia).
 - i. Select proper IV solutions.
 - ii. Monitor oral fluid intake.
 6. Understand treatment options:

- i. Carotid endarterectomy.
 - ii. Carotid stenting.
 - iii. PFO management.
 - iv. Atrial fibrillation management.
 - v. Medical management.
- C. Implement care specific to hemorrhagic stroke.
 - 1. Monitor and maintain blood pressure within identified parameters:
 - i. Aneurysmal subarachnoid pre- and post-treatment.
 - ii. Arterio-venous malformation rupture.
 - iii. Intracerebral hemorrhage.
 - iv. Intraventricular hemorrhage.
 - 2. Understand treatment options:
 - i. Coiling.
 - ii. Embolization.
 - iii. Clipping.
 - iv. Radiosurgery.
 - v. Craniotomy and craniectomy.
 - vi. Intraventricular thrombolysis.
 - vii. Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) diversion
 - a. Ventriculostomy
 - b. Shunt
 - viii. Medical management.
 - 3. Monitor and prevent increased Intracranial Pressure (ICP).
 - 4. Monitor and mitigate vasospasm:
 - i. Transcranial Doppler.
 - ii. Endovascular management.
 - 5. Manage fluid and electrolyte balance (e.g., sodium, magnesium, osmolarity).
- D. Identify associated stroke disorders:
 - 1. Transient ischemic attack.
 - 2. Cerebral venous thrombosis.
 - 3. Dissection:
 - i. Carotid.
 - ii. Vertebral.
 - 4. Moya Moya disease.
 - 5. Hypercoaguable states.
 - 6. Vasculitis.
 - 7. Arterio-venous fistula.
 - 8. Cavemous angioma.
 - 9. Intracranial and extracranial stenosis.
 - 10. Dural arterio-venous fistula.

VI. Medications – 10%

- A. Understand the indications for the following classes of medications:
 - 1. Antiplatelets.
 - 2. Anticoagulants.
 - 3. Antithrombotics.
 - 4. Antihypertensive.

5. Vasopressor agents.
 6. Lipid lowering agents.
 7. Nimodipine.
 8. Diuretics.
 9. Anticonvulsives.
 10. Glycemic control.
 11. Antispasmodics.
 12. Antidepressants.
 13. Neurostimulants.
 14. Atypical neuroleptics.
 15. Analgesia.
- B. Understand the contraindications of the above-listed classes of medications.
 - C. Understand the interactions of the above-listed classes of medications.
 - D. Understand the side effects of the above-listed classes of medications.
 - E. Understand the timing of the above-listed classes of medications.
 - F. Understand the dosage of specific medications.

VII. Post-acute Care – 8%

- A. Understand roles within the multidisciplinary team.
- B. Understand levels of rehabilitative care (e.g., acute rehab, subacute rehab, home health, outpatient rehab).
- C. Establish nursing diagnoses and develop plan of care.
- D. Coordinate early rehabilitation and discharge planning.
 1. Assist patient toward maximum functional capacity.
 2. Involve patient's family and significant others in decision making and care plan.
 3. Initiate rehabilitation upon admission.
 4. Assist patient in performing Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) along with other healthcare team members.
 5. Encourage adherence to medications.
 6. Demonstrate transfer techniques and assistive devices.
 7. Provide options for adherence to outpatient follow-up.
 8. Assess caregiver dynamics.
 9. Utilize appropriate assessment scales (e.g., modified Rankin, Barthel, Rancho Los Amigos).
 10. Assess psychosocial impact of stroke.
- E. Assist in sustaining and maintaining patient's healthy, productive lifestyle.
 1. Provide guidelines for home care.
 2. Establish goals and provide discharge plan:
 - i. Activity and exercise.
 - ii. Medication regimen.
 - iii. Symptoms needing referral.
 - iv. Nutrition.
 - v. Medical follow-up.
 - vi. Sexual function.
 3. Facilitate referrals to resources and community support groups.
 4. Involve patient in activities that will enhance self-esteem.

5. Guide patient in adaptation to lifestyle changes based on identified risk factors.
- F. Understand specialized rehab treatments.

VIII. Systems and Quality Care – 5%

- A. Understand rationale for use of the following:
 1. Protocols or pathways.
 2. Stroke units.
 3. Acute stroke team.
 4. Chain of survival.
- B. Apply quality improvement techniques to improve stroke outcomes.
- C. Understand criteria for stroke center certification.

Recertification Application Fees (Non-Refundable)*

Applications submitted before the deadline of **October 1, 2018** must pay the following fee:

	AANN Member	Non-Member
Online – Credit Card	\$275	\$385
Online – Check	\$300	\$410

Applications received between **October 1, 2018** and **January 31, 2019** must pay the following fee:

	AANN Member	Non-Member
Online – Credit Card	\$360	\$470
Online – Check	\$385	\$495

Payment by credit card, a check or money order in U.S. dollars payable to the **American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)** must be submitted with this application. Applications will not be processed without the accompanying fee. **The application fee is not refundable.** Applications must be submitted at the national office by 5:00pm Central Time on Monday, October 1, 2018. **Applications received at the national office after 5:00pm Central Time October 1, 2018 are subject to a late fee of \$75.** **Applications including the late fee will be accepted at the national office only through 5:00pm Central Time, January 31, 2019.** **No applications will be accepted after this date.**

* Recertification fees are subject to change.

Application Instructions (Available June 2018)

Please follow the instructions below to complete your recertification application.

1. Visit www.abnncertification.org and click 'Apply for SCRN Recertification'.
2. **IMPORTANT: Do NOT create a new account.** Since you are due to renew, you already have an account in our system. If you click create a new account, it will prevent you from being able to complete your recertification application. If you do not remember your username and/or password, please click on the links provided and an email will be sent to you to reset. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Customer Service at 847-375-4733.
3. Click on the text 'Apply for Recertification'.
4. Select your option for recertification.

Option 1: 4,160 nursing practice hours that include the care of stroke patients in the past 5 years (equivalent to 2 years full-time work) and retaking the certification exam.

Option 2: 4,160 nursing practice hours that include the care of stroke patients in the past 5 years (equivalent to 2 years full-time work) and 50 continuing education hours.

Option 3: 2,500 nursing practice hours that include the care of stroke patients in the past 5 years (part-time) and 75 continuing education hours.

5. You will be taken to a page with a number of tabs at the top. If the tab is green, then all of the required fields are complete. If the tab is red, then required fields are incomplete. You have the ability to save your work at the bottom of the screen before moving on to the next tab.
6. For detailed instructions regarding different options, please visit www.abnncertification.org.

If submitting a paper application, please fill out the online application, hit “Save & Print” and mail your completed application packet to:

**ABNN SCRN Recertification Program
8735 W. Higgins Rd. Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60631**

For applications received by the October 1st deadline, **notification of your recertification status will be sent to you by the first week in December 2018**. If it is found that you do not have the required number of CEs to recertify, you will be notified. Efforts will be made to provide enough time prior to December 31, 2018, to earn additional CE if you choose. Applicants submitting their forms after the October 1 deadline will likely not receive notification of additional CE needed to be earned prior to December 31, 2018. Late applicants will be notified of their recertification status no later than March 31, 2019. A new certificate and wallet card will be issued to applicants who meet all criteria and requirements specified herein.

If you need assistance completing the application or have questions about the status of your application, contact ABNN at the address above or call 888-557-2266 or 847-375-4733.

Application Audits

Each year the ABNN randomly selects 10% of applications to be audited. If your application is selected for audit, you will be requested to send the documentation for all listed CE activities within 21 days of notice of your audit. Be prepared to submit a photocopy of every CE certificate and written documentation of other activities (e.g., table of contents of journal showing you as author of an article; school transcript, etc.). If a CE program you attended does not meet the definition of an approved program, submit a copy of the behavioral objectives and an outline of the content (e.g., a program brochure) in addition to a copy of the CE certificate.

Denial of Application and Appeal

Approval of recertification will be denied if the applicant is deemed ineligible for continued certification, or if documentation does not meet the requirements listed. Falsification of the application, as well as failing to submit the required CE verification is grounds for denial of recertification. Applicants denied recertification will be notified in writing of the specific reason.

In the event an application for recertification is denied, the decision can be appealed to the ABNN Appeals Committee. Should you wish to appeal the decision you must notify ABNN in writing at 8735 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60631, within 21 days of the postmarked date on the letter informing you of the denial.

Any applicant whose application for recertification is denied approval will be sent information about how to appeal the decision, including steps in the appeal process and additional information required.

Candidates with insufficient CE hours to recertify will **not** receive a refund. Candidates who are unsuccessful in recertifying by exam are not eligible for any fee refund.