

For Immediate Release
August 7, 2014

CONTACT: Michelle Poskaitis (ANCC)
michelle.poskaitis@ana.org

ANCC AND RNS ANNOUNCE FIRST BOARD CERTIFICATION IN RHEUMATOLOGY NURSING

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Aug. 7, 2014 — The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the Rheumatology Nurses Society (RNS) today announced plans to develop a new board certification through portfolio for rheumatology nursing. Announced at the RNS Annual Conference in Louisville, Ky., the new certification program will be developed beginning in 2014 and is scheduled for launch in 2015.

ANCC's certification through portfolio is an alternative assessment method for credentialing individual registered nurses in their specialty area. Nurses document their skills, knowledge, abilities and career accomplishments as part of the application assessment process. Certification through portfolio requires equivalent rigor as examinations to meet accrediting bodies' criteria to determine proficiency through a peer review process informed by nurse experts.

Nurses certified through the ANCC portfolio assessment method are regarded as experts in their specialties and are considered to be among the highest-qualified nurses in the world. These credentials foster both professional growth and job satisfaction while demonstrating a nurse's commitment to providing excellent care.

ANCC incorporates the latest nursing practice standards, ensuring that nurses are credentialed using the most current criteria. ANCC's experience with in-house test development using psychometric practices provides an excellent foundation for the development of the rheumatology certification through portfolio. The ability to operationalize and administer individual credentialing programs is one of ANCC's core competencies, and ANCC is the only nurse credentialing organization to achieve ISO 9001:2008 certification in the design, development and delivery of global credentialing services and support products for nurses and healthcare organizations.

"Certification through portfolio is an excellent method for credentialing and will greatly serve the nursing profession as nurses' knowledge grows ever more specialized. We look forward to a

productive collaboration with RNS and its members, as ANCC aims to develop the first-ever certification in rheumatology nursing,” said Executive Vice President and Chief ANCC Officer Linda C. Lewis, MSA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE.

“We are delighted and excited to endorse ANCC’s development of a board certification to recognize the passion, commitment and quality that rheumatology nurses bring to their practices and the care of their patients every day. As leaders in health care, rheumatology nurses continue to reach for excellence in professional development and nursing practice. ANCC board certification will provide a credible means for RNS members and all rheumatology nurses to validate their knowledge, engage in lifelong learning, and be recognized for their experience,” stated Sheree C. Carter, PhD, RN, president of RNS.

About ANCC

The mission of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs. ANCC’s internationally renowned credentialing programs certify and recognize individual nurses in specialty practice areas. ANCC recognizes healthcare organizations that promote nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes while providing safe, positive work environments. In addition, ANCC accredits healthcare organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education. ANCC’s Credentialing Knowledge Center offers educational materials to support nurses and organizations as they work toward their credentials. ANCC is the first and only healthcare certification organization in the United States to have successfully achieved ISO 9001:2008 certification. nursecredentialing.org

About RNS

The Rheumatology Nursing Society (RNS) is a nonprofit professional nursing organization representing nurses who are engaged in clinical practice, education and research for the care of patients with rheumatic diseases. The mission of RNS is to lead nurses to excellence in the care of patients with rheumatologic diseases. The society is committed to the development and education of nurses to benefit its members, patients, family and community. RNSnurse.org

