

2020 ABNN Certificant of the Year Award

Jennifer Coffman, JD MSN APRN CPNP-AC CNRN

Recommended by: Jennifer Engel and Ricka Messer



**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
ABNN Certificant of the Year Award
Nominee Written Statement**

JD, MSN, RN, CPNP-AC, CNRN

Credentials _____

Please give **specific examples** of your contributions to neuroscience/stroke nursing clinical practice based on the following criteria (statement may not exceed 500 words):

Leadership

As a pediatric neuroscience nurse for almost 25 years, I have taken an active leadership role both within my organization and on a national platform. I have served as an SFG co-chair for AANN for the past two years and just recently became President of the Association of Child Neurology Nurses, a national organization supporting child neurology nurses specifically. Within my hospital, I established and co-chair the neurology medication safety task force and am a clinical leader for our house-wide medication administration safety QI initiative. Finally, in recognition of my leadership contributions I was selected as a 2018-2019 Hearst Nursing Scholar.

Professional Service

Supporting neuroscience nursing practice, I recently developed an innovative high-fidelity seizure simulation process for neuroscience nurses to practice and develop seizure response. In addition, I led the organizational work standardizing care of patients with infantile spasms, decreasing LOS from a high of 6.57 to 2.55. In partnership with physicians in my section, I worked to standardize prescribing of seizure rescue medications and decrease the use of dangerous free text prescriptions from 76% to 19%. I completed an 18-month research fellowship and am the principal investigator for an RCT implementing telehealth technology. Within the past year, I have presented nationally at three different conferences on pediatric related neuroscience topics. Finally, I recently graduated with my MSN, became a board-certified Acute Care PNP, and am now completing my DNP.

Mentoring/Education

For the 4th year I have chaired a regional nursing conference for pediatric neuroscience nurses, with record attendance in 2019. I have mentored 5 nurses in abstract submission, poster development, and podium presentations over the past 2 years. In addition, I organize new hire/graduate orientation to neuroscience topics across the organization. For our neuro specialized nurses, I provide an annual "expert education" series focused on more advanced concepts. All of these provide neuro-specific CEs.

Staff/Patient Advocacy

For the past three years I have served on the Infantile Spasm Action Network, a national advocacy group representing 30 organizations that support education and awareness of this rare disorder. Locally, I have served 2 years on my organization's Clinical Nurse Practice Council, developing clinical practice standards for nursing staff. I have established a program for inpatient neuroscience nurses to shadow neurology clinic nurses to learn standardized epilepsy teaching and I have developed new family teaching materials for intranasal midazolam administration and infantile spasm recognition.

Promotion of the CNRN/SCRN credential

In 2011, I became the first CNRN in our institution, establishing the value of this certification even in an exclusively pediatric practice. I have established and maintained a library or resources for certification, and through endowment funds coordinate review courses for staff. With this support, in the past 2 years we have gone from 0 CNRN nurses on the inpatient neuro unit to 10. Each new CNRN is celebrated with a pinning ceremony and personally baked cake. To entice new nurses in becoming interested in certification, I provide a CNRN "Question of the Week" for all inpatient nurses. As noted, I also provide multiple opportunities to gain neuro-specific CE for maintenance of certification.

**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
ABNN Certificant of the Year Award
Blinded Reference Statement Form #1 (cont'd)**

I worked with the nominee during the following time period 2015-2019 and with
Children's Hospital Colorado (name of institution).

Please give **specific examples** of this nominee's contribution to neuroscience/stroke nursing clinical practice through your first-hand experience with the nominee (statement may not exceed 500 words):

Leadership

As the director of our pediatric neurohospitalist program, I have personally experienced the applicant's excellent leadership qualities over the past 5 years. I wholeheartedly recommend her for the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing Certificant of the Year. She has numerous outstanding achievements in the field of neuroscience nursing, including president of the Association of Child Neurology Nurses. The applicant leads with her shining example, ingenuity, and supportive guidance. She spearheaded an 18-month endeavor to address issues with intranasal midazolam orders – systematically determining sources of errors and then partnering with pharmacists, neurology providers, neurology nurses, and school nurses to simplify the ordering process, overhaul patient education materials, and disseminate the new protocol. This has resulted in significant decreases in errors and enhanced satisfaction with all stakeholders.

Professional Service

I have especially come to rely on the applicant in her role as Clinical Practice Specialist. She collaborates with neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, and rehabilitation providers, as well as the bedside nurses, to provide care coordination and promote best practices. The applicant is a recognized clinical expert on Infantile Spasms, a severe epilepsy which requires high risk treatments. She helped develop our institution's Infantile Spasms Clinical Pathway, including detailed guidelines for safe medication dosing and administration. She also enacted concrete strategies which have decreased length of stay for patients with Infantile Spasms, and she is the principle investigator for an Infantile Spasms research study evaluating telehealth monitoring. The applicant also completed her ACPNP degree and is currently working on her DNP.

Mentoring/Education

The applicant is a passionate and trusted mentor, for myself and countless others. She has personally mentored me on several quality improvement projects, culminating in posters at the 2016 and 2018 Child Neurology Society conferences. She has also mentored 4 nurses through their own projects, and the neurology residents regularly seek her guidance and expertise on projects and day-to-day patient care. In addition, she organizes the annual Christopher Ward conference, a highly regarded neuroscience nursing education forum.

Staff/Patient Advocacy

The applicant is a tremendous advocate for patients and staff. She proactively identifies the needs of her patients, such as seizure first aid teaching, prescription prior authorizations, and medication administration instructions. For example, she recognized the importance of providing families of patients with Infantile Spasms with a letter explaining the risk of adrenal crisis, as well as a letter to their pediatrician outlining the necessary health care maintenance. She has served on the Infantile Spasms Action Network, an organization working to improve awareness of the disorder. She also assists with transitions of care, such as calling parents a few days after discharge to ensure they have their prescriptions and follow-up arrangements.

Promotion of the CNRN/SCRN credential

The applicant has fostered a thriving cohort of neuroscience-certified nurses – 10 to date. She organizes neuroscience skills workshops and high-fidelity code sims. As a provider, I have witnessed first-hand the difference that these experienced neuroscience nurses make for our patients. I truly do not know what we would do without her!

**American Board of Neuroscience Nursing
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Blinded Reference Statement Form #2 (cont'd)**

I worked with the nominee during the following time period 2011-2019 and with
Children's Hospital Colorado (name of institution).

Please give **specific examples** of this nominee's contribution to neuroscience/stroke nursing clinical practice through your first-hand experience with the nominee (statement may not exceed 500 words):

Leadership

This nominee naturally excels in leadership both within the immediate team, throughout our organization, and via national neuroscience nursing representation. Demonstrating this skillset has allowed the nominee to serve as the president elect for the Association of Child Neurology Nurses and the chair of the education committee. Additionally, she is the American Association of Neuroscience Nursing Pediatric SFG co chair. She was recognized as a Hearst Nursing Scholar in 2018-2019, continually striving to advance practice. Leadership service within the organization has included participation as the co chair for the Neurology medication Safety task force, advocacy for neuroscience patients within the leadership team of both the neuroscience institute and inpatient unit.

Professional Service

Continually striving towards professional growth this nominee sets the bar in multiple venues. Personally, she just completed her MSN, Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner degree and remains a DNP candidate at University of Colorado. She has been invited to present nationally at AANN (on FIRES) and at a National Pediatric Nurse Scientist Collaborative Annual fly in. Research has been a passion for her as evidenced by the recent completion of an 18 month research fellowship and participation as the principal investigator in a randomized control trial implementing tele-health technology. Locally, she has developed new high fidelity seizure simulation for neuroscience nurses to improve their comfort and skill set with seizure response.

Mentoring/Education

She was a personal mentor of mine for many years within the Neuroscience Institute. She assists our nurses with abstract submission, poster development, podium presentation, policy development, and importance of medication reconciliation. This nominee serves as the chair and coordinator for the annual Christopher Ward Neuroscience Nursing conference specific to neuroscience nurses. She coordinates new hire orientation and educational topics for the neuroscience nurses across the organization. This mentorship is highly valued based on her 25 years experience as a neuroscience nurse.

Staff/Patient Advocacy

Advocacy comes naturally with the expansive knowledge this applicant possesses. She is an expert in the field. Nominee serves on the Infantile Spasm Action Network which is an advocacy group representing 30 organizations and generating awareness. Additionally, she established the practice for ambulatory and inpatient partnership improving effectiveness of RN bedside teaching related to new epilepsy diagnoses. This nominee also served 2 years on the Clinical Nurse Practice council as a neurosciences expert. Lastly, she developed new picture based family teaching materials for intranasal midazolam administration and infantile spasm recognition.

Promotion of the CNRN/SCRN credential

This nominee was the very FIRST CNRN at our hospital in 2011. Not only is she passionate about maintaining her level of expertise, but she has personally mentored and encouraged 10 inpatient nurses on the path to successfully obtain their CNRN certification. She developed and provides neuro specific CE for certification maintenance and handles all the library resources for CNRN certification. Fun activities such as the CNRN "Question of the Week" go out to our inpatient nurses.