

EMPLOYER'S GUIDE TO VASCULAR ACCESS CERTIFICATION



VASCULAR ACCESS CERTIFICATION CORPORATION
Vascular Access Board Certification™

VA-BC™

About VACC

The Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the validation, through certification, of a specialized body of knowledge for all professionals working in the field of vascular access. VACC is multidisciplinary in scope and includes the broad range of health care professionals and clinicians actively engaged in the practice of vascular access.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) is to facilitate demonstration of cognitive competence through accredited certification in the specialty of vascular access.

Accreditation

VA-BC™ certification is accredited by the (NCCA) National Commission of Certifying Agencies.



Why certify your employees in vascular access?

Certification is the objective, measurable way to ensure that a professional has the knowledge to practice competently within the specialty field of vascular access.

Certification is a voluntary process by which a nongovernmental agency formally recognizes specialized knowledge, skills and experience in a designated area. The Vascular Access Board Certified™ (VA-BC™) certification establishes minimum competency standards in the specialty of vascular access and offers recognition for those who have met the standards.

The certification exam is based on current professional practice and validates that the certified clinician's knowledge is up to date. This verification of a caregiver's knowledge in vascular access can boost an institution's credibility with its patients and inspire more trust in certified clinicians.

Supporting an employee's journey to certification also demonstrates that you as an employer actively invest in the professional development of your employees. This can increase employee retention and signal to prospective employees that your institution strives to be the best not only for its patients but its employees as well.

Purpose of Certification:

The purpose of the certification and the recertification process is to protect the public by:

1. Providing standardized measurement of current essential knowledge needed for persons practicing vascular access;
2. Encouraging individual growth and study, thereby promoting professionalism among professionals in vascular access and
3. Formally recognizing professionals in vascular access who fulfill the requirements for certification and recertification.

Who is Eligible for VA-BC™ Certification

The VA-BC™ exam is multidisciplinary in scope and is designed for clinical professionals to include (but not limited to) MDs, PAs, NPs, RNs, LPN/LVNs, RTs, RRTs, Infection Control, Educators, EMS professionals, that actively work in the field of vascular access. The examination measures the basic knowledge, skills and abilities expected of professionals working in vascular access. Each candidate should assess their own body of knowledge, skills and understanding of the specialty in deciding when to sit for the exam.

All Candidates must:

1. Have a minimum of a post-secondary education (e.g.: LPN, nursing diploma, associates, bachelors)
2. Have a minimum of 1 year of professional experience. Practice in the area of vascular access is required for initial certification.
3. Attest they meet one of the following criteria
 - a) Health Care Professional in the field of Vascular Access involved in assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating the care and needs of patients and clients who require vascular access in the course of their care.
 - b) Professional working in a field that complements Vascular Access, such as Educators, Administrators, Infection Control Professionals, Nutrition Support Professionals.

In addition, current clinical practice must include at least two (2) of the following activities:

1. Assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating the care and needs of patients and clients who require vascular access in the course of their care;
2. Education of individuals in best practice as it pertains to vascular access;
3. Development and revision of vascular access policies and procedures;
4. Management of vascular access activities;
5. Provision of consultation of vascular access activities.

Self-employed individuals must meet the same practice criteria as above.

NOTE: This certification is NOT intended for sales, marketing, or other non-clinical industry professionals, and all candidates must legally attest that they meet practice requirements, which is subject to verification by the staff of the Vascular Access Certification Corporation. For industry professionals interested in furthering their knowledge of Vascular Access, please review the [Vascular Access Industry Partner™ Program](#).

How to Incentivize Certification and Recognize Certified Employees

There are ways for all organizations to encourage staff to become certified and to recognize those who are. We've listed a few below:

Financial Support:

- Reimburse successfully certified staff for examination or recertification fees
- Provide paid time off to take the exam
- Offer salary differentials and/or bonuses once certified
- Provide support for purchase of study materials
- Offer support for recertification
- Apply credentials to name badges

Other Ways to Encourage and Recognize Certification:

- Mail a letter of congratulations to your certified staff
- Download and publish the VACC [press release](#)
- Distribute information about VA-BC™ Certification and test opportunities
- Download and publish the VACC press release announcing credentialed individuals
- Organize and encourage study groups
- Give preference to VA-BC™ professionals to attend continuing education conferences

Benefits for Employers:

- Improved customer satisfaction
- Increased competence level of employees
- Increased safety in providing vascular access services
- Helps to recruit and maintain qualified professionals
- Provides professional development opportunities
- Demonstrates your commitment to competence
- May increase retention rates

Benefits for Employees:

- Personal and professional satisfaction
- Recognition from other healthcare professionals and peers
- Enhances professional reputation
- Demonstrates a high level of commitment to the field of vascular access
- Validates skills and knowledge

Benefits for Patients:

- Increases confidence in service providers
- Meets the public demand for safety and standards
- Ensures caregivers with validated experience

Contact Us

We hope this guide has been informational for you and your team. If you should have additional questions or concerns about VACC or the VA-BC™ certification process, please do contact our staff. Thank you for your consideration!

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My Employee is Certified. What's Next?

Upon passing the VA-BC™ exam, certificants are certified for three years starting the month following the examination (July 1 or January 1).

Those who pass a December VACC examination can begin using the designation VA-BC on January 1. The certification period is January 1 through midnight December 31 (3 years later). Those who pass a June VACC examination can begin using the designation VA-BC on July 1. The certification period is July 1 through midnight June 30 (3 years later).

Certificants have two options for recertifying:

1. **Retake the exam.** Because exam forms and knowledge change over time candidates may choose to promote their continued dedication to vascular access by taking the exam.
2. **Recertify by Continuing Education Credits.** 30 CE credits must be earned throughout the certification cycle, at minimum beyond a single calendar year. Additionally, credits must come from more than one source (i.e., all credits cannot come from one conference, course, etc.). *All Continuing Education Credits must be related to vascular access.*
 - a. A list of the acceptable sources for CE credits can be found on our [Continuing Education Resources](#) page.

The purpose of requiring certification renewal is to provide a means for expanding knowledge and reinforcing skills through participation in professional development activities to ensure the VA-BC's continued competence relevant to vascular access. VACC has developed a three-year recertification cycle to ensure that the VA-BC professional is exposed to new developments, technological innovations and clinical advancements within the field of vascular access.

Maintaining an active certification status through recertification is the way in which certified professionals demonstrate to the public that they have current and up-to-date knowledge and experience. These opportunities not only lead to enhanced knowledge for the certified vascular access professional but ultimately, to quality patient care.