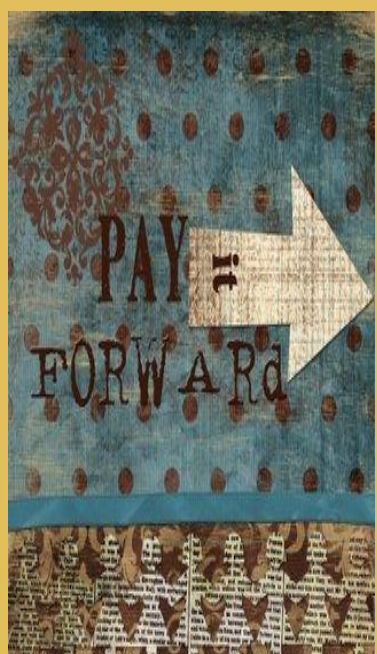


# Greater Kansas City Chapter of AACN

## *Certification: Paying it Forward at Saint Luke's*



Nursing certification has been shown to advance the professional nurses' knowledge and skill. This in turn has a direct impact on patient outcomes, such as NDNQI nurse-sensitive indicators and CMS Never Events. Certification allows the RN to recognize their self-worth and be viewed as experts and owners of their practice. Although the CICU, along with the rest of the nursing staff at Saint Luke's Hospital, was provided with study materials for the CCRN at no cost to the nurse, only 11% of nurses in the CICU were certified.

Barriers to certification were reported anecdotally as both process oriented and content focused. The process of joining the AACN, registering for the exam, scheduling a testing site, and understanding the deadlines involved is a genuine rationale for not taking the exam. In addition, the content of the exam is very broad, the many CCRN preparatory materials are exhaustive, and it is difficult to know how to narrow one's preparation. With these barriers, many nurses never start the process, believing it's unattainable.

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## Get Ready For Visions!

We are truly lucky to have one of the premier national experts on delirium come to speak to us at Visions this year. Dr. Pratik Pandharipande from Vanderbilt is a member of Dr. Wes Ely's team that validated the CAM-ICU tool and developed the website [icudelirium.org](http://icudelirium.org). He will be providing us with new information of delirium that is applicable to progressive care as well as the ICU. Did you know that patient's who experience delirium have a higher mortality rate? Did you also know that the longer the delirium persists, the higher the mortality? Come meet and learn from the experts in delirium. We are also honored to feature AACN President, Kristine Peterson for our Keynote Speaker. Other highlighted topics will include Trauma: Stabilization and Transport presented by Dave Seastrom, Community Acquired Pneumonia as Cause of Sever Sepsis by Kathleen Vollman, Syndrome X, The Perfect Storm by Susan Morello and many more! Register by submitting the registration form found on our new website, [aacngkcc.org](http://aacngkcc.org) (under the education tab) or see attached form.

### **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Visions Symposium**

When: March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 2011

Time: 0700-1715 on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and  
0700-1600 on March 4<sup>th</sup>

Location: Ritz Charles

(9000 W 137<sup>th</sup> St, Overland Park, KS)



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After a long lull in a CICU nurse obtaining certification, one nurse passed the CCRN exam. Upon certification, this nurse partnered with another nurse to encourage her certification. This began the "Pay it Forward" project in the CICU. As one nurse passed the exam, she immediately partnered with the next nurse to navigate the AACN website, register for the exam, and gather specific, topic-centered study materials. The nurse was encouraged and supported through the study process. The newly certified nurse would act as the unofficial cheerleader to the newly studying nurse, they would answer questions about the exam, give examples of questions they had received and talk through difficult subjects or ideas. As each nurse passed the CCRN they would immediately adopt another nurse from the unit to encourage and help with the certification process.

This method of encouraging nurses to sit for the CCRN has been in practice for two years in the CICU. The current percentage of certified nurses is 54%, up from 11% just two years ago. The next nurse is scheduled to take the exam in February of 2010. As the program has grown, financial support to sit for the exam is now provided by the hospital to register for the exam rather than the previous method of reimbursement once the exam was passed.

It should be noted that since the inception of this program 100% of the nurses that have attempted the exam have passed on their first attempt!

Kristin Sollars RN, BSN, CCRN  
Alicia Clark, RN, BSN, CCRN  
Marci Ebberts RN, BSN, CCRN

**We have a new website!**

**[www.aacngkcc.org](http://www.aacngkcc.org)**

**Please check us out and stay up to date on the latest news in critical care in Kansas City!**

**Don't forget you can also find us on Facebook!**

**WE NEED YOU!**

Our local AACN Chapter relies on Greater Kansas City area hospital participation to meet the changing needs of our Critical Care Nurses. Each Greater Kansas City area hospital needs a representative to assure we are meeting your nurses needs. If your hospital does not have an AACN hospital representative and you are interested in representing your hospital please contact Laura Saunders [lasanders5@kc.rr.com](mailto:lasanders5@kc.rr.com). A list of current representatives can be found on our website.

***Upcoming events:***

**Critical Care Course**

- North Kansas City Hospital
- April 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition**

- Chicago, IL
- April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- McCormick Place (Click [here](#) for more information)

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