

Essay

The purpose of ABCGN is to maintain and improve knowledge, understanding and skill of nurse in the field of gastroenterology and gastroenterology endoscopy by developing and administering a certification program. The purposes of certifications for gastroenterology nurses include:

- 1 Demonstrating accountability to the general public for gastroenterology specialty practice
- 2 Enhancing quality patient care
- 3 Recognizing professional nurses who have met an accepted level of experience and demonstrated a standard of knowledge and experience in gastroenterology nursing and gastroenterology endoscopy practice
- 4 Promoting personal satisfaction as a professional nurse
- 5 Providing employers with a means of identifying professionals who have met a standard of achievement.

In 250, but not less than 200 words, describe how you see yourself contributing to the purpose of ABCGN and certification.

My future with ABCGN is in keeping up with and exceeding the past. SGNA and ABCGN have been very important to me in my gastroenterology nursing career. I was excited and thrilled when certification became a reality. Doris Barney is a great role model and I have tried to follow Doris's example. I took the pre-certification exam in 1985, when the then CBGNA, wanted to test pilot an exam to see if the questions and the format were feasible. I was so excited when I passed the very first certification exam. Since then I have recertified by either taking the exam again or through continuing education credits.

In Doris's fashion, I have encouraged everyone I have ever worked with to become certified. Before I left my previous place of employment, 100% of the staff was certified. Another rewarding experience for me was working on the CEPRG committee. Seeing what types of programs the Regionals were putting on, who their presenters were and what their objectives were, was very interesting.

Being a member of the Item Writers Committee has helped me to continually challenge myself. The work of that committee is very intense, but very rewarding. I learned that writing test questions is not as easy as it sounds.

So, in closing this essay, my future with ABCGN will be to exceed the past. I consider myself a professional volunteer and want to continue doing whatever I can to help this great organization grow.