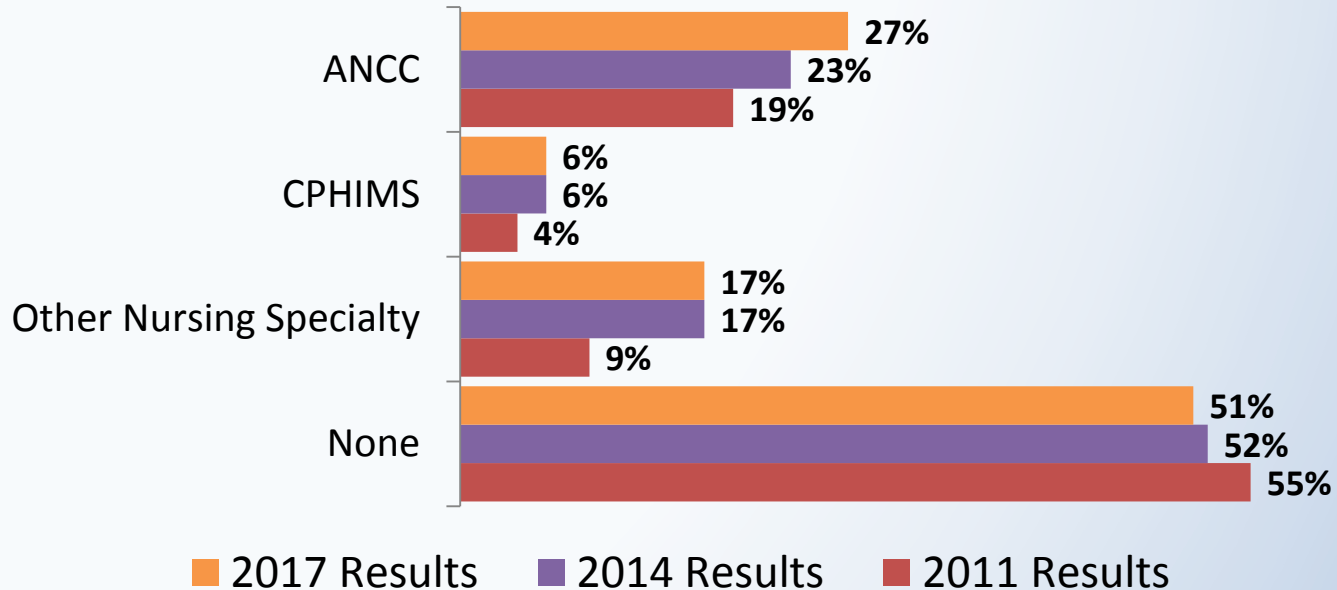# Certification Options for Informatics Nurses

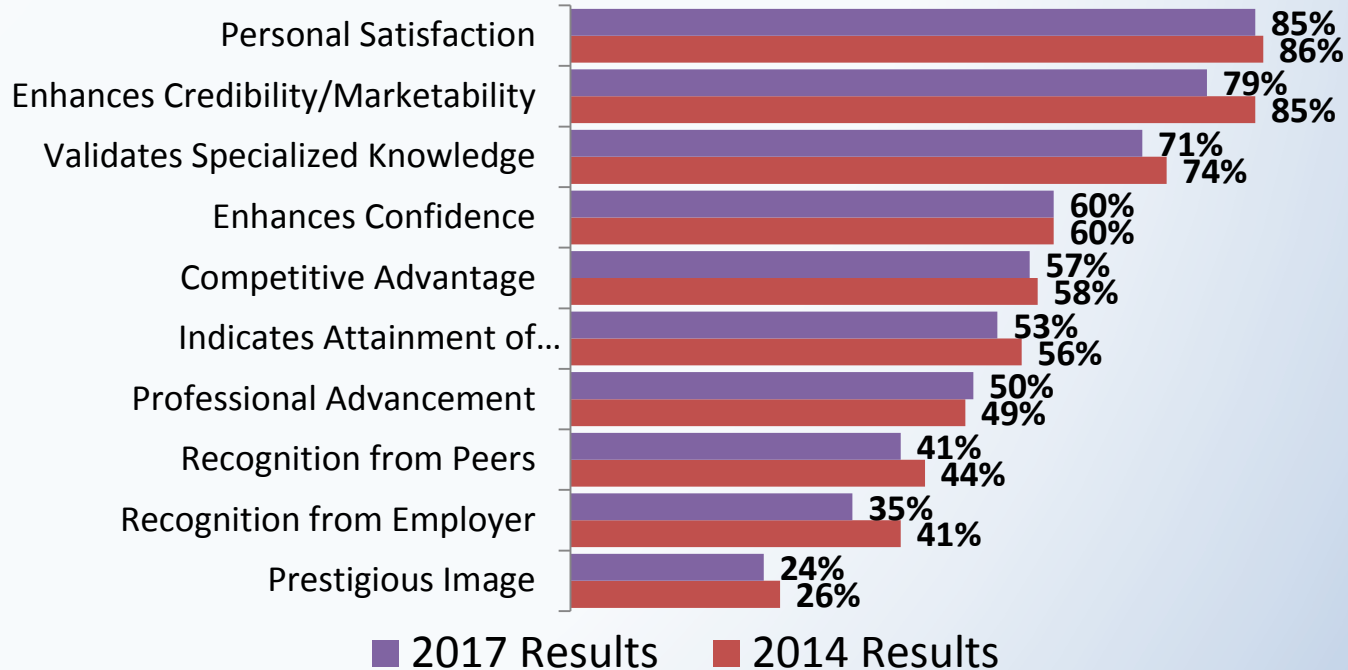Sue Fulginiti, DNP, NE-BC, RN-BC
Gwen Heaney-Cutts, MSN, RN

Objectives

- Discuss perceived barriers to attaining certification and strategies to overcome barriers

- List several certification options for informatics nurses

- Describe general eligibility criteria for these certifications

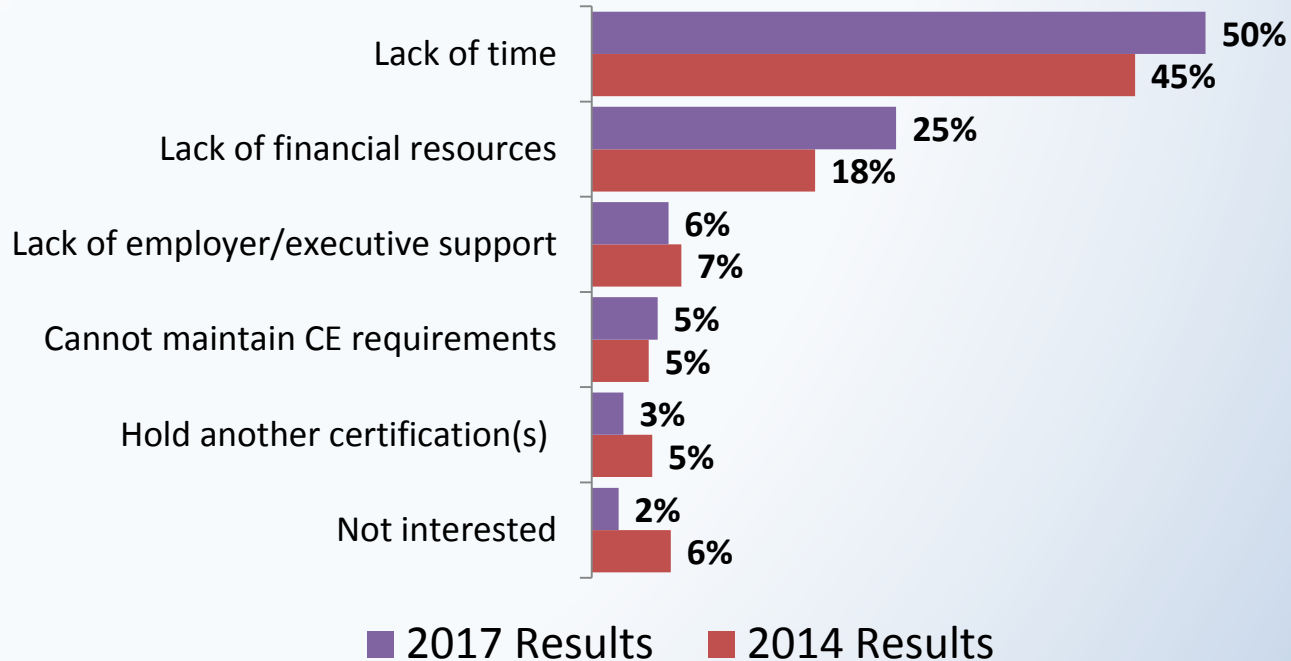# Certification Results from 2017
Nursing Informatics Workforce Survey

2017 HIMSS Nursing Informatics Workforce Survey
N= 1279

Perceived Value in Holding Professional Certification

2017 HIMSS Nursing Informatics Workforce Survey
N= 1279

Top Barriers to Certification

Lack of time
- 2017: 50%
- 2014: 45%

Lack of financial resources
- 2017: 25%
- 2014: 18%

Lack of employer/executive support
- 2017: 6%
- 2014: 7%

Cannot maintain CE requirements
- 2017: 5%
- 2014: 5%

Hold another certification(s)
- 2017: 3%
- 2014: 5%

Not interested
- 2017: 2%
- 2014: 6%

■ 2017 Results   ■ 2014 Results

2017 HIMSS Nursing Informatics Workforce Survey
N= 1279

Certification Results from 2017
Nursing Informatics Workforce Survey

- The number of respondents with any certification increased from 48 percent in 2014 to 49 percent in 2017.

- Over half (51 percent) of the respondents indicated that they would be pursuing some type of certification within the next year.

- Certification is found to have a fairly high impact on respondents' career paths

- A new ratings question was added to the 2017 survey and the ***average rating for the impact certification has on career was 4.96 out of 7.0***.

N=1279 respondents

Comparison of ANCC and HIMSS certifications

Certification Name	Organization	Credential	RN required	Degree required	Experience required	Recognized by Magnet?
Informatics Nurse	ANCC	RN-BC	Yes	Any related Bachelor's degree	2000 hours over last 3 years or combination of practice hours and academic credits	Yes
Certified Professional in Health Information Management Systems	HIMSS	CPHIMS	No	Bachelor's degree NOTE: CAHIMS available for RN with no advanced degree	Bachelor's degree - 5 years of information and management systems experience (3 in healthcare) Master's degree - 3 years experience with 2 in healthcare)	Yes
Various certifications	Project Management Institute	PMP, PgMP, CAPM, PMI-PBA	No	Varies by certification	Varies by certification	No

History of Informatics Nursing Certification (ANCC)

- The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) offered the first Informatics Nursing exam in 1995

- As of December 31, 2014, 1622 nurses have achieved ANCC Informatics Nursing Certification

McCormick, K., Gugerty, B. & Sensmeier, J. (Feb, 2017). A Comparison of Professional Informatics-Related Competencies and Certifications. *Online Journal of Nursing Informatics* (OJNI), 21(1), Retrieved from http://www.himss.org/library/comparison-professional-informatics-related-competencies-and-certifications

Informatics Nursing (RN-BC) from ANCC

Eligibility Criteria

- Active RN license
- Bachelor's or higher degree in nursing or a relevant field
- Practiced the equivalent of 2 years full-time as an RN
- Have completed 30 hours of continuing education in informatics nursing (last 3 years)
- Working in informatics:
  - 2,000 hours in informatics nursing (last 3 years)

    or
  - 1,000 hours in informatics nursing (last 3 years) and completed 12 semester hours of academic credit in informatics courses (graduate-level)

  or
  - Completed a graduate program in informatics nursing containing a minimum of 200 hours of faculty-supervised practicum in informatics nursing

What is the Success Pays™ Program?

- Inquire if your organization participates in the ANCC Success Pays™ program
- How it works:
  - Nurse is provided a code to enter online in lieu of $375 fee
  - Nurse takes the certification test
  - If nurse passes, the fee is invoiced to the organization
  - If nurse is unsuccessful the first time, he or she may retake the test one additional time during the contract period
  - If nurse is unsuccessful a second time, the hospital is not charged for either test
  - Nurses who wish to test a third time must reapply through the regular individual application process
- Program not applicable to recertifications

Need Informatics Nursing Contact Hours?

- Must have completed the required 30 contact hours BEFORE you apply (within past 3 years)
- Need some free/low cost Informatics contact hours?
  - Nurse.com (OnCourse learning) - $49 per year unlimited contact hours (~20 specific to informatics)
  - Lippincott CE Connection – offers many informatics courses / average cost $10/contact hour
  - ANIA members – free monthly webinar with contact hours; decreased cost for other courses offered

Informatics Contact Hours Opportunities

Informatics Conferences

- Summer Institute Nursing Informatics (SINI)
  - Offers Webcast option with contact hours
- ANIA Annual Conference
  - Archived presentations available at reduced cost to members
- ANIA offers certification prep courses (12 contact hours) at various locations
- HIMSS offers a full day nursing informatics symposium at annual conference each February
- Local HIMSS or ANIA chapter conferences
  - NJHIMSS Events   DVHIMSS Events
  - Greater Delaware Valley ANIA offers Spring and Fall Conferences annually

Eligible? How to Apply for the Exam

- Log into the ANCC website
- Click on the appropriate specialty certification
- After the page for your specialty has successfully loaded, click "Apply Online".
- If you do not already have an account, click "Register" located under "New Customer" and complete the customer registration. If you already have an account, complete the required fields to login to your account.
- Select/Add Certification to cart
- On the checkout page
  - If organization is a Success Pays™ participant, enter code provided by your program administrator in the "Enter Promotional Code" field.
  - If not a Success Pays participant, follow instructions to pay with credit card (NOTE: ANA members receive a discount)
- Click "Process My Order" towards the bottom left of the page as the final step of the certification registration process

ONL
Organization of NURSE LEADERS of nj

What's Next?

- Once you apply and are notified of eligibility for the computer-based test, you will have a 90-day window to take the test
  - NOTE: there is a fee to change your date
- There are many [testing sites](#) from which to choose
- The exam allows 3.5 hours to answer 175 questions (150 scored plus 25 pretest questions that are not scored)

At the testing center

- Don't forget your ID
- You will be required to place all items in a locker when you arrive at the Prometric Testing center
- Plan to arrive early
- [Test Drives](#) are available – cost is $30.00

Test Preparation

ONLINE TESTING AND ASSESSMENTS

Category	Domains	Number	Percent
I	Foundations of Practice	77	51%
II	System Design Life Cycle	42	28%
III	Data Management and Healthcare Technology	31	21%

Link to Test Content Outline *(3/2018)*
Link to Test Reference List *(3/2018)*

Test Preparation

Group study? Individual study? Online course?

- **Review Course – in person or online**
  - In person review courses sponsored by ANIA (2 day / 12 contact hours)
  - Nurse.com Nursing Informatics Certification Review Focused CE Series (6 weeks / 20.5 contact hours)
  - Can be expensive – inquire if your organization reimburses for certification prep course
- **Practice Exams**
  - Sample Questions
  - Certification Practice Questions from ANCC/ANA

Test Preparation

- **Study groups**
- **Flash cards**
  - Help identify areas of weakness
- **Utilize content experts at your organization**
  - Network team
  - DBA
  - Data analytics team
  - Project Managers

Renewal Requirements

- [New options for renewal](#)
- **All certification renewal candidates are required to complete a MANDATORY 75 continuing education hours (CH), plus one or more of the eight ANCC renewal categories**
- Track your hours online on the [ANCC website](#)

CPHIMS Certification from HIMSS

- 2.5% of those holding CPHIMS certification are nurses

- Bachelor's degree required with 5 years experience (3 in healthcare)

- Fee: $375 for non members of HIMSS/$300 for members

- HIMSS offers a review guide, practice exams and a self paced online review course for purchase

Read more about PMI certifications

- Several certifications are available from the [Project Management Institute](#) (PMI):
  - [Project Management Professional](#) (PMP)®
  - [Program Management Professional](#) (PgMP)®
  - [Certified Associate in Project Management](#) (CAPM)®
  - [PMI Professional in Business Analysis](#) (PMI-PBA)®

In the Works –
AMIA Informatics Certifications

- Health informatics certifications developed by the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) would differ from existing certifications or credentials in two key ways:
  - Credentials would focus on the practice of health informatics rather than on fields of health information technology (HIT) or health information management (HIM).
  - Future credentials would be available to individuals from a broad spectrum of disciplines in contrast to credentials that focus on a specific area (e.g., nursing informatics).
  - [Sign up](#) to receive periodic email updates on the Advanced Health Informatics Certification (AHIC) developments.

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http://nursecredentialing.org/InformaticsNursing

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Project Management Institute (PMI) Certifications, retrieved from https://www.pmi.org/certifications

Questions?

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