



# Advanced CHPN® Certification for Acute Care Frontline Nurses



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## BACKGROUND:

Iowa City VA Medical Center (ICVA) is a 52-bed hospital. Nurses needing palliative care content and language for goals of care conversations and advocating symptom relief.

## METHODS:

ICVA joined CAPC and made courses available to all staff. Online courses completed tracked by CAPC website. Staff completing > 30 courses awarded a Palliative Care Champion pin. Nursing leadership endorsed HPNA certification and re-certification pathway for nurses interested in Hospice and Palliative Nursing (CHPN®) certification.

## RESULTS:

Total courses completed: 1,277  
Resources downloaded: 290  
9 Nurses completed 40 courses; enrolled in certification pathway

## DISCUSSION:

Currently at mid-implementation; we have designed a certification pathway through strong institutional support and frontline nurse interest.

## NEXT STEPS:

1<sup>st</sup> cohort to begin exam prep  
2<sup>nd</sup> cohort to be recruited

## Palliative Care Champions

- Complete 30 online CAPC courses to become a Palliative Care Champion



## Palliative Care Champions PLUS

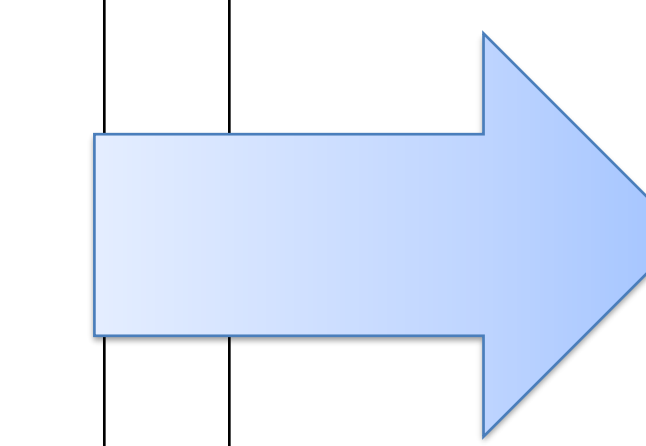
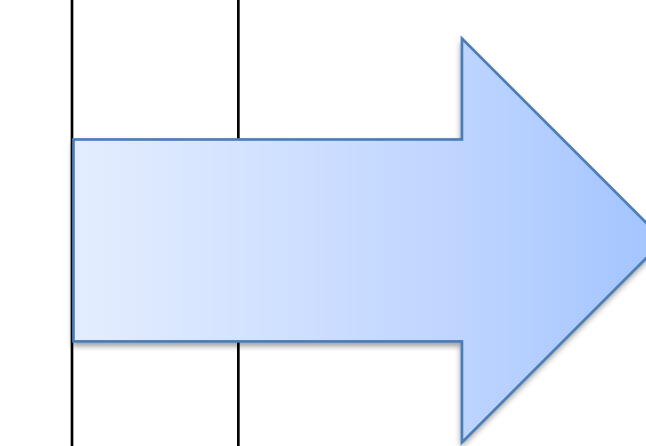
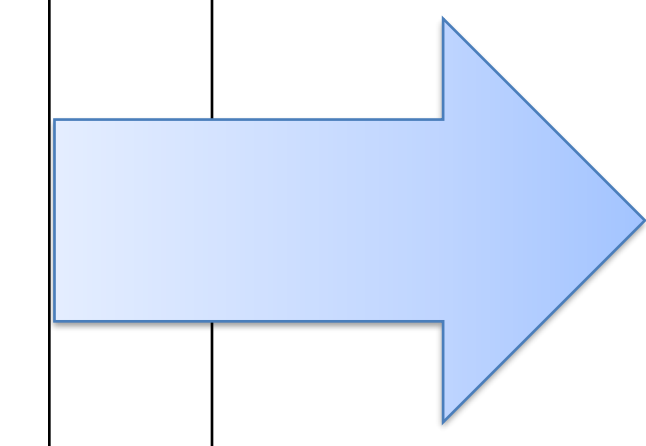
- Complete all 40 online CAPC courses
- Qualify to begin the CHPN® certification pathway

## CHPN® Certification Pathway

- Attend monthly exam prep sessions
- Complete CHPN® exam

## Maintaining CHPN Certification

- Deliver 10-Minute talks at shift change or start of clinic
- Complete Goals of Care/ Document Symptom Assessment
- Lead process improvement projects



**Competent Nurses = Confident Nurses:**  
**Frontline nurses, who regularly provide palliative care crave training.**  
**CAPC courses served as a “hook” providing CEUs and content nurses appreciated:**  
*“...changed the way I think about pain assessment- no longer just a number.”*  
*“...started them because I needed the CEU’s, kept taking because they were so good!”*  
*“Veterans deserve the best care available... the more I know, the better I can help.”*