AAPACN
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF POST-ACUTE CARE NURSING

2025 Education and Certification Programs

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The American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing **(AAPACN®)** represents more than 20,000 post-acute care nurses and professionals working in more than 7,200 facilities. For more than 25 years, AAPACN and its legacy organizations has been dedicated to supporting these healthcare professionals in providing quality care through innovative education programs to benefit any career stage—from nursing assistants and individuals new to the MDS coordinator or DNS role to seasoned veterans seeking best practices. AAPACN programs keep you up to date with the fast-changing complexities of post-acute care regulations, enabling you to do your job more efficiently and effectively.

Professional Development Resources from AAPACN

Education for Nursing Assistants

AAPACN's extensive library of in-service education provides resources that can be used for training nursing assistants. With new tools added regularly, each includes an instructor's guide and test questions and are *free* to members.

- Staying Alert for Hypoglycemia
- Combatting Failure to Thrive in Adults
- Appropriate Use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Flu Trivia
- Staying Alert for Acute Conditions
- The Skin: Facts, Risks, and Care
- The Many Forms of Resident Abuse and Neglect
- Foot Health and Care
- Respecting Cultural Diversity
- Playing the Defensive Line Against Pressure Injuries
- The Losses Families Grieve
- Dining Safety
- Signs of Pain in Residents with Dementia
- Caring for Residents Who Wander
- Providing Excellent Customer Service
- Communicating With Residents With Dementia
- Basics of Care for the Resident Who is Incontinent
- Back Safety
- Basics of Emergency Care for Medical Emergencies
- Emergency Preparedness

Flu Trivia

Staying Alert for Acute Conditions

FREE TOOLS, WEBINARS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND NEWSLETTERS - ALL RATE OVER 80% IN QUALITY BY AAPACN MEMBERS

Education for Nurses New to the MDS or DNS Role

AAPACN nurse experts provide on-demand instruction to get nurses new to the MDS process or new to the DNS role up to speed quickly.

MDS Essentials: Ten-Session On-Demand Workshop

1. MDS Essentials: An Introduction to RAI Process, OBRA '87, and RAI User's Manual

2. MDS Essentials: Coding Sections A, B, and C

3. MDS Essentials: Coding Sections D, E, F, and Q

4. MDS Essentials: Coding Sections H, I, and J

5. MDS Essentials: Coding Sections GG and K

6. MDS Essentials: Coding Sections L, M, N, and P

7. MDS Essentials: Coding Sections O, V, X, and Z

8. MDS Essentials: Introduction to CAA Documentation and Care Plans

9. MDS Essentials: Introduction to OBRA Scheduling

10. MDS Essentials: Introduction to PPS Scheduling and PDPM

CEs: 15 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$553	$1,103

DNS Fundamentals: On-Demand Workshop and Tools Package

A six-session comprehensive on-demand workshop providing training and tools to assist in performing the DNS job duties skillfully and with confidence. This program is packaged with 23 tools to create efficiencies in specific areas of responsibility.

1. The Role and Responsibilities of the DNS in LTPAC

2. Clinical Excellence

3. Overview of the Regulatory and Survey Process

4. Leading Clinical Improvement

5. Basic Staffing and Human Resources Management

6. Overview of Business Operations of the Nursing Department

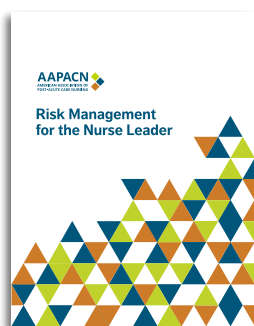| CEs: 5 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Workshop and Tools Package	$424	$847

Certification Programs

For more than 20 years, AAPACN certification programs, developed by legacy associations AANAC and AADNS, have been recognized by the post-acute field as the standard for RAI process, QAPI, and nurse leadership certification.

DNS-CT®: Ten-Course Certification Program for DONs

This certification indicates that as a nurse leader, you have met nationally recognized standards of expertise for directors of nursing services in post-acute care, that you are up-to-date with the rules and regulations, and that you can lead and nurture your team.

1. Leadership & Management for the Nurse Leader
2. Risk Management for the Nurse Leader
3. Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement for the Nurse Leader
4. Human Resource Management for the Nurse Leader
5. Survey Readiness 24/7/365 for the Nurse Leader
6. Survey Management and Enforcement for the Nurse Leader
7. Compliance and Ethics Essentials for the Nurse Leader
8. Essential Business Skills for the Nurse Leader
9. MDS and Medicare Process Essentials for the Nurse Leader
10. Care Management and Surveillance Systems for the Nurse Leader

CEs for Online: 43.95 Hours CEs for Workshop: 22.5 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Online + PDF	$832	$1,662
Live Workshop	$843	$1,061

DNS-CT Recertification

Recertification is required every two years, and may be done by submitting a recertification application and proof of 50 CE hours having been completed and maintained during the two year period.
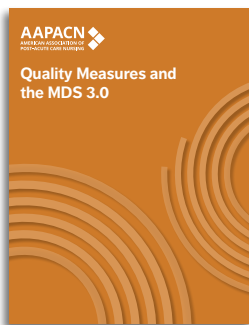
	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Application Fee	$128	$301

RAC-CT®: Ten-Course Certification Program for MDS/NAC Nurses

This certification is the most widely-recognized and respected MDS 3.0 certification available in the post-acute care profession, as well as the mark of nurses who understand more than a paper form—they understand resident assessment.

1. MDS 3.0 Coding for OBRA and PPS, Part 1
2. MDS 3.0 Coding for OBRA and PPS, Part 2
3. Introduction to ICD-10-CM Coding for Long-Term Care
4. Care Area Assessments and the MDS 3.0
5. Care Planning and the MDS 3.0
6. OBRA Timing and Scheduling for the MDS 3.0
7. Managing the Patient-Driven Payment Model in a SNF
8. Introduction to Medicare Part A
9. Quality Measures and the MDS 3.0
10. The Five-Star Quality Rating System

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Quality Measures and the MDS 3.0

CEs for Online: 46.78 Hours CEs for Workshop: 22.5 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Online + PDF	$760	$1,517
Live Workshop	$777	$996

RAC-CT Recertification

Recertification is required every two years. The current requirements include taking and passing exams for the following four courses:

1. RAC-CT Recertification Part 1: Line-By-Line Updates to Chapter 3 of the *RAI User's Manual*
2. RAC-CT Recertification Part 2: Updates and Pitfalls – OBRA Timing and Scheduling, CAAs, and Care Planning
3. RAC-CT Recertification Part 3: Updates and Pitfalls – PDPM, Intro to Medicare, MDS 3.0 QM, and Five-Star
4. RAC-CT Recertification Part 4: Introduction to ICD-10-CM for Long-Term Care

CEs: 5.75 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$234	$467

RAC-CTA: Ten-Course Advanced Certification Program in Medicare

This program provides advanced principles of clinical reimbursement to help you excel as a reimbursement leader.

1. Managing the Patient-Driven Payment Model in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
2. Original Part A Program Requirements in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
3. Documentation Requirements in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
4. ICD-10-CM Coding in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
5. Beneficiary Notices in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
6. Consolidated Billing in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
7. Medicare Part B Therapy in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
8. Medical Reviews and Oversight in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
9. Federal Quality Initiatives in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist
10. Leadership and Management of Clinical Reimbursement in a SNF for the Advanced Medicare Specialist

CEs for Online: 33.85 Hours CEs for Workshop: 22.5 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Online + PDF	$864	$1,725
Live Workshop	$879	$1,083

RAC-CTA Recertification

Recertification is required every two years. Requirements include taking the on-demand workshop and passing the final exam.
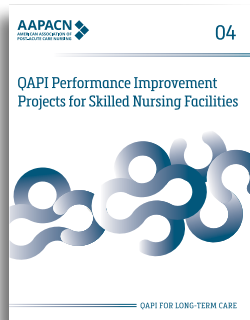
CEs: 4 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$234	$467

88% OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS REPORT THAT HOLDING AN AAPACN CERTIFICATION HAS IMPROVED THEIR JOB PERFORMANCE.

QAPI Certified Professional (QCP®)

QAPI is the key to continuous growth and sustained performance improvement. This certification program is intended for members of the QAPI/QAA committee and covers all aspects of QAPI from theory to application-based strategies.

1. QAPI Design and Scope for SNFs
2. QAPI Governance and Leadership for SNFs
3. QAPI Feedback, Data Systems, and Monitoring for SNFs
4. QAPI Performance Improvement Projects for SNFs
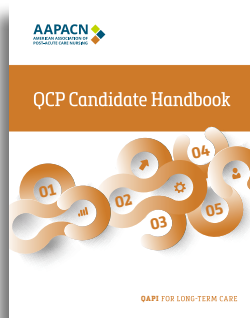5. QAPI Systematic Analysis and Systemic Action for SNFs

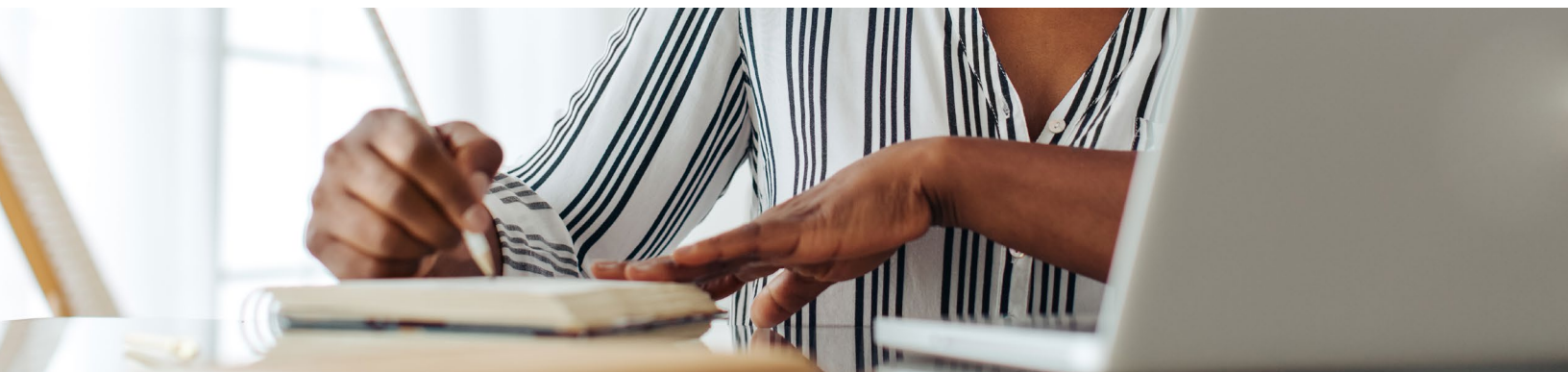| CEs for Online: 16.21 Hours CEs for Workshop: 15 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Online + PDF	$634	$1,266
Live Workshop	$641	$859

NAB CEs available for online five-course set or workshop completion.

QCP Recertification

Recertification is required every four years, and may be done by either passing the QCP Recertification exam or by submitting a recertification application, completing a minimum of 1,000 practice hours in LTPAC, and completing at least 80 CE hours.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Application Fee	$130	$303
Exam Fee	$130	$303

Section GG Train-the-Trainer Certificate Program

This comprehensive certificate program will prepare you to provide on-going training to direct care staff to accurately document section GG self-care and mobility activities. Program includes a comprehensive training kit, which can be used to train a group of five to 500 people.

CEs: 1.5 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$145	$288

ICD-10-CM Coding Certificate Program for SNFs + ICD-10-CM for PDPM

This four-part certificate program guides MDS nurses and IDT members through the process of determining and identifying the most appropriate ICD-10-CM codes.

CEs: 8 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$428	$854

Medicare Basic Training for the NAC and IDT

This ten-part on-demand workshop provides step-by-step training to help new NACs and IDT members understand the basics of the Medicare process to ensure compliance with requirements.

CEs: 6.5 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Ten-Course Bundle:	$386	$770

Care Area Assessment (CAA) Training for the IDT

A comprehensive on-demand workshop, including examples for each of the 20 care areas, allowing learning to be customized to best meet the learning needs of each team member.

CEs: 2 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$117	$231

Trauma-Informed Care

An eight-module certificate program designed to provide education to assist facility leaders in implementing Trauma-Informed Care within their facility.

CEs: 5.1 Hours NAB CEs: 5.75 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$384	$766

Multidisciplinary Management of Five-Star Quality Measures

This on-demand workshop will guide your team through the basics of QMs and Five-Star rating methodology.

CEs: 2.75 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$199	$397

Targeted Probe and Educate Review

This on-demand workshop offers comprehensive insights to navigate TPE Reviews with confidence.

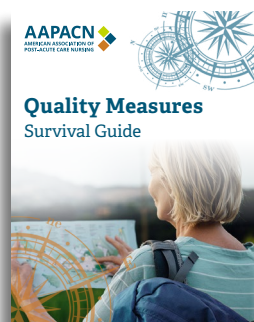| CEs: 1.25 Hours	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$53	$106

Facility Resources

AAPACN facility resource tools and guides are designed to help get your team on the same page, collect the correct information, and code most accurately to improve resident outcomes.
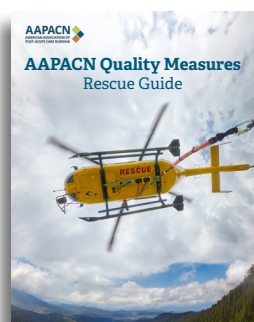
Quality Measures (QMs) Survival Guide

This comprehensive guide details over 40 QMs packaged all into one resource, featuring detailed information, MDS audits, and numerous links to important resources.

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Quality Measures
Survival Guide

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$68	$136

QM Rescue Guide

An all-in-one resource to transform quality outcomes by identifying root causes and making systemic improvements.

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AAPACN Quality Measures
Rescue Guide

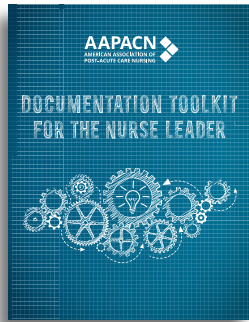|	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$68	$136

Guide to Successful Restorative Programs

Get the knowledge and tools needed to start and maintain an effective restorative program in the skilled nursing facility.

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Guide to Successful
Restorative Programs

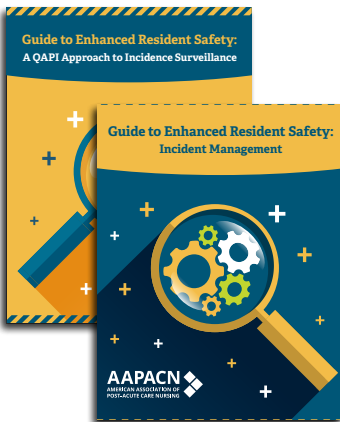|	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$58	$116

Documentation Toolkit for the Nurse Leader

A set of tools and resources that will help DONs, staff development coordinators, and other nurse leaders make lasting improvements to documentation in the skilled nursing facility.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$103	$206

The Guide to Enhanced Resident Safety: Incident Management and A QAPI Approach to Incidence Surveillance

Develop a systematic approach to incident management and surveillance. Two separate guides.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$103 each or $156 for both	$206 each or $309 for both

MDS Development: A Toolbox for the NHA and DNS Leaders

A collection of 19 practical tools designed to assist the NHA and the DNS with the oversight of the role of the NAC and RAI process.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$43	$257

Interrupted Stay Policy FAQs and Resources

A comprehensive guide answering 24 of the most inquired-about questions to help the NAC and biller understand the nuances of the interrupted stay policy.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$33	$66

DNS Fundamentals Tools

Practical tools designed to guide the novice or experienced DNS/DON in management of a LTPAC nursing department.

Organizational Toolkit for the Director of Nursing Services

Toolkit provides guidance in organizing tasks and responsibilities and includes tools to assist with setting priorities, scheduling responsibilities, plus a daily and weekly planner template.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$23	$196

Staffing Tool

This tool will help the DNS determine the appropriate staffing levels that are needed according to the budget.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$114	$286

CNA and Licensed Nurse Competency Checklist

Checklists to help the DNS evaluate staff members' ability to perform care duties in a competent manner.

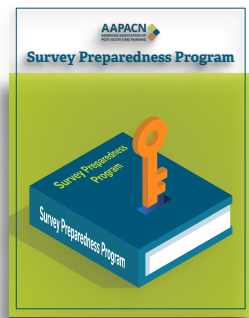|	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$23	$46

F-Tag Library On-Demand Series

A collection of learning modules providing explaination into the nuances of each individual F-Tag, as well as steps facilites can take to attain and maintain compliance.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$318	$583

Survey Preparedness Program
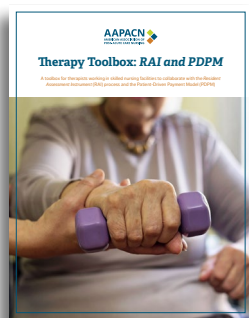
Tools and resources designed to facilitate activities throughout the year to enhance the facility's survey preparedness and compliance protocols.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$164	$327

Therapy Toolbox

A collection of 20 practical tools designed to assist the SNF therapy teams in collaborating with clinical teams to meet the unique needs of the residents and improve quality outcomes.

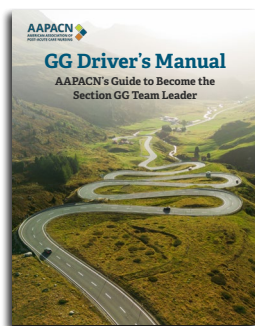|	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$55	$228

Appendix PP Regulatory Updates – 2025

A series of 18 short learning modules providing guidance, as well as action steps and resources specific to each regulatory change. Nurse leaders can use this on-demand workshop to educate staff and assist with maintaining compliance.

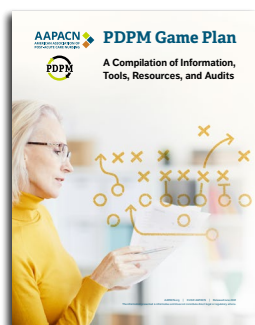|	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
On-Demand Workshop	$99	$198

GG Driver's Manual

This 61-page guide includes comprehensive information, tools, and resources to assist with management of the section GG process.

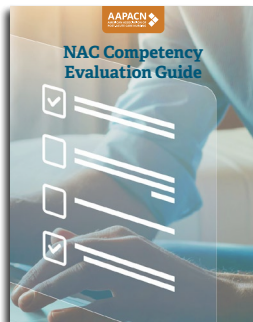|	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$63	$126

PDPM Game Plan

A comprehensive resource packed with information, tools, checklists, and audits to support on-going success under PDPM.

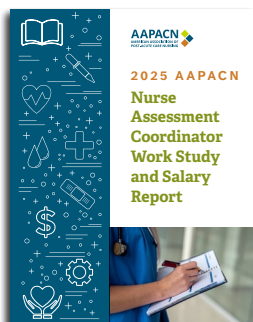|	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$63	$126

NAC Competency Evalution

A valuable tool designed to assess knowledge and MDS expertise. Ideal for new hire assessment, annual competency checks, and self-evaluations, the results can inform personalized professional development plans and serve as a validated demonstration of MDS coding proficiency.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$25	$25

NAC Work Study and Salary Report

Understand the issues affecting job satisfaction and know the factors influencing compensation. Use AAPACN data to help reduce NAC staff turnover, improve NAC recruitment, and staff appropriately.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
PDF Download	$36	$72

In-Service Education for RNs

Utilize AAPACN's library of in-service education for RNs to boost staff development programs. With new tools added quarterly, each includes an instructor's guide and test questions and are free to members.

Caring for Residents Who Have Had a Stroke

Caring for the Resident Receiving Dialysis

Constructive Feedback

Death and Dying Education Bundle for Nurses

Deconditioning

Empowering Employees

Ethical Decision Making

Medication Safety

Motivating CNAs

Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Pain Management

Nurse Assessment: Acute Changes in Condition

Nurse-Driven Antibiotic Stewardship

Post-Fall Assessments

Pressure Injuries: Assessing for Risk Factors and Implementing Interventions

Protecting Against C-diff Infection

Residents' Right to Privacy

Responding to Residents' Sexually Inappropriate Behavior

Self-Care for Peak Performance

The Fragile Bones of Osteoporosis

The Three Ds: Dementia, Delirium, and Depression

Person-Centered Care Planning

Emergency Preparedness

Discharge Planning

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Nurse Assessment:
Acute Changes in Condition

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POST-ACUTE CARE NURSING

Professional Development Education
Empowering Employees

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Constructive Feedback

Live Workshops

Achieve your educational goals with an AAPACN live workshop. Facilitated by a network of expert training partners, these interactive workshops are offered in-person or virtually with live instruction.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
RAC-CT	$777	$996
RAC-CTA	$879	$1,083
DNS-CT	$843	$1,061
QCP	$641	$859

Search current AAPACN workshops to find one that fits your schedule.

Webinars

Live webinars are hosted throughout the year, as important topics and regulatory changes arise. Led by AAPACN nurse experts and thought leaders in the industry, these timely discussions offer guidance and information you can trust to do your job correctly and efficiently.

Access AAPACN's library of on-demand webinars available for viewing at your convenience and as many times as you wish to watch after the initial purchase.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Live Webinars	Free	$116
On-Demand Webinars	$24	$48

View AAPACN upcoming live webinar topics and the library of on-demand webinars.

78% OF MEMBERS AGREE THAT APPACN MEMBERSHIP HAS AN IMPACT ON THEIR DAILY SUCCESS IN THE POST-ACUTE CARE FIELD

AAPACN Annual Conference

The AAPACN Annual Conference provides a unique opportunity for post-acute healthcare professionals and nurse leaders to join together to learn and explore new ideas and solutions, as well as provide a forum for quality engagement with peers and industry experts.

	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Early-Bird Registration	TBA	TBA
Standard Registration	TBA	TBA
Late Registration	TBA	TBA

Learn more about the AAPACN Annual Conference.

Membership Benefits and Opportunities

Invest in yourself and your career by becoming a member of AAPACN. Establish a solid network of peers and take your learning to new heights. Membership will help you in your day-to-day role by giving you access to resources you need to work more efficiently and effectively. Plus, you'll receive condensed and expert-analyzed regulatory updates and changes; education and certification opportunities to deepen your knowledge and sharpen your skills; and a community of support to build your career and strengthen your network.

Benefits of Membership

Discounts on Educational Programs	Up to 50% off education and certification programs and conference registration
Member Community Access	Peer-to-peer online networking and discussion forums with expert moderators
Regulatory Updates	Synthesized and broken-down updates on complex CMS regulations and requirements, as well as need-to-know information
Exclusive Electronic Publications	*AAPACN Leader for the NAC* and *AAPACN Navigator for the DNS* and analysis of breaking CMS news
Free Webinars	Hosted throughout the year as important topics and regulatory changes arise
Downloadable Tools	Expert-developed tools to help you do your job more efficiently and effectively
Career Center Resource	Access to the career center where you can find your next career opportunity or hire a new team member

	AAPACN
Individual One-Year Membership	$168
Individual Two-Year Membership	$305
Student Membership	$54
Group Membership	Learn More

Learn more about the benefits of AAPACN membership.

To purchase programs, visit AAPACN.org