

## **ABOUT THE NAB RESIDENTIAL CARE/ASSISTED LIVING ADMINISTRATORS EXAMINATION**

The NAB exam is becoming recognized as a national standard as utilization continues to expand in additional states. More importantly, it is a high stakes, high security, highly defensible examination. The examination is delivered in a computer based testing format every business day of the year through Prometric Testing Centers in more than 200 locations across the US.

The exam was first implemented in September, 1998 in Nevada. North Carolina began offering the exam on a voluntary basis in 1999; South Carolina adopted the exam for licensure in January of 2000, and Idaho in July of 2001. Virginia recently passed legislation requiring licensure of assisted living administrators and will begin using the NAB exam upon final implementation of their regulations. The States of Maine, Oregon and Washington recognize the NAB exam as an option for meeting licensure requirements. In addition, North Dakota and Minnesota sponsor the exam on a voluntary basis. Participating states have been very pleased with the performance of the examination. Several other states have expressed a strong interest. We expect that the NAB exam will be recognized as the national standard entry level examination for assisted living managers/directors and administrators over time. Employers, and residents and their families, will appreciate this recognition and measure of competency.

The job analysis which is the basis of the examination was updated in 2005 and new forms of the examination are currently being developed for implementation in February of 2007 along with an updated Study Guide. The job analysis was developed and reviewed by panels of content experts representing the assisted living administrator profession and was validated through a national survey last year. The NAB contracts with Professional Examination Service, a leading organization that specializes in the development and administration of competency examinations.

NAB has developed a broad support structure for the examination. NAB publishes a *Study Guide* to assist candidates in preparing for the examination, and a companion interactive, multimedia web based program as a supplemental learning tool. These resources will be in the process of being updated to reflect the new job analysis study and should be ready for purchase by fall 2006. NAB has expanded its National Continuing Education Review Service to include review and approval of continuing education programs for RC/AL Administrators and the Education Committee is exploring academic criteria for RC/AL administrators. Funds have been committed to maintain an ongoing update of the examination with new forms of the exam under development at all times.

All activities of the RC/AL examination process have been independent of the Nursing Home Administrators examination to assure that the exam represents the RC/AL administrator.

This exam has been developed by NAB for use by member jurisdictions as a licensure exam or as a voluntary entry level competency examination. I encourage you to share this information with the appropriate officials in your state for consideration of use of the exam.