



The Certification Corner

Welcome to *The Certification Corner* – CBIC's electronic newsletter, bringing you timely information about your organization.



**CBIC: *The Certification Corner*
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CBIC

President's Corner—Sharon Krystofiak

Members of the CBIC Board were pleased to meet many of our colleagues at the APIC Conference in Ft. Lauderdale. We frequently fielded questions about the decision to remove the 2-year practice requirement to be eligible to take the CIC Certification exam. Here are some additional thoughts which might help clarify the situation.

APIC

CHICA

The "completion of a minimum of 2 years of clinical experience in infection prevention and control" requirement had become very difficult to enforce. Since candidates can apply online to take the exam, documentation of work experience signed by a supervisor is no longer available. To verify work experience, applicants were randomly selected for auditing after they passed the exam. If it was later identified that an IP had only worked for 22 months, it was difficult to take away that CIC and tell the person he or she was not qualified yet, even if they had a perfect score on the test.



Colleagues have expressed concern that entry level IPs will be able to pass the test without those 2 years of experience by memorizing references such as the APIC Text. If you don't understand processes, it isn't possible to guess the right answer. The AMP testing specialists tell us that the test is "doing its job." We are carefully monitoring the passing rate and so far, we can say that there is no measurable change in either the percentage of IPs passing the exam or a major rush of new IPs scheduling an appointment to take the test.

NAHQ 34th
Annual
Educational
Conference 2009
Grapevine, TX
September 13-16 2009

NOCA 2009
Annual
Educational
Conference
Phoenix, AZ
November 18-21, 2009

We still suggest that the exam is designed for the professional with 2 years of experience. When a candidate successfully completes the exam, there is documentation that this person has current, basic knowledge needed for persons practicing infection control. In line with APIC President Christine Nutty's message concerning the proposed new name for the APIC organization, we also recognize that the CIC credential carries a great deal of equity. Chris and the APIC leadership are urging us to evolve as a profession. To say that one is a CIC—Board Certified in Infection Control—means that we have proven that we possess analytical skills needed to protect our patients. Certification is "Elevating the profession, elevating the professional." We also like "To be prepared is half the victory"-Miguel Cervantes.



2009 Practice Analysis Survey

Thank you very much for participating in the recent CBIC practice analysis (PA) survey! We were extremely pleased with the response rate and I know that the winners of the drawing were very pleased with their prizes. The survey was sent electronically to APIC and CHICA members and to the certified individuals in the CBIC database. Measures were used to eliminate duplication. After adjustments were made for invalid e-mail addresses, etc, the response rate was 27.5%.

Based on preliminary analysis, the typical respondent is a female, non-Hispanic Caucasian around age 50 and is highly experienced in infection prevention and control and has worked in health care for 25 years. She holds a bachelors degree and is an RN. She likely works in an acute care hospital, and works 30 or more hours/week as an infection preventionist. Her hospital has 100-500 beds and employs 1-3 full-time infection preventionist.

The winners of the drawing were:
Susan Langley, Odessa, Texas
Sharon Bradley, Ambler, PA
Patricia Burns, Johnstown, PA
LouWonna Snodgrass, Watseka, IL
Eileen Van Norman, Newark, NY

Because of the significant changes that have impacted our professional practice since the last PA and because CBIC wants to ensure the certification exam reflects current practice, the PA survey was conducted this year as opposed to next year. The results of the survey will be used to revise the certification exams. In July 2010 CBIC will begin using the revised examinations which incorporate the results of the survey. The detailed content outline will be published and available well in advance of that time. A poster of the survey process and results will be presented at the next meeting of the International Federation of Infection Control in Lithuania. Additionally, the results will be published in AJIC.

Certified? Let the World Know

It takes commitment to become Certified in Infection Control (CIC®). Show your professional achievement with the official CIC® insignia pin. This 14K gold-filled CIC pin sells for \$35.00. We encourage chapters to purchase CIC® pins to present to chapter members who are certified or newly certified. It is a great way to recognize their achievement. Please contact the CBIC Executive Office for a product order form.



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The Early Years of CBIC

In the beginning, 1980-1984, there were 12 hard-working, committed, professionals who had a vision, a purpose and a goal that laid the foundation for certification of Infection Control Practitioners (Infection Preventionists). It took 3 years to form the CBIC board of directors, complete the original task analysis, write test questions so there was a suitable question bank, develop the weighting structure for the questions and write three tests. All of the members took the tests and analyzed the results. Marj Underwood did an excellent job serving as chair of the certification development committee that did all the pre-board preparation. Barb Soule chaired the APIC Text Committee that developed the first core curriculum, now known as the APIC Text. Marguerite Jackson served on CBIC and the Test Committee so that everything fit together.

Members of the original CBIC Board of Directors included Trish Barrett, Julie Garner, Marguerite Jackson, Patricia Lynch, Patricia Schlegel, Barbara McArthur, Bob Shannon, Maureen Spencer, Carolyn Langewisch, and Steve Weinstein from the United States. Noélène McGuire, Montreal, was the founding CBIC member from Canada. A community liaison also served on the board. Some of the beginning board members served the full 3-year term. Others served a partial term in order to provide for staggered elections.

Three articles about the methods and results for the first task analysis, which also included information from the Test Committee, were published in the early issues of AJIC. The APIC Board of Directors loaned start up funds to the CBIC Board of Directors.

The first certification exam was given in 1983. Congratulations to those early Infection Preventionists, who are still actively serving in the profession. Best wishes to all of the currently certified professionals, who value the knowledge, skills and commitment that it takes to be an expert in the field. The vision of the founding CBIC members is alive through your continuing efforts in Infection Prevention.

Best wishes are extended to everyone who is working towards certification or re-certification. Your efforts are appreciated by those whom you serve.

Honoring the Newly Certified

CBIC honored newly certified Infection Preventionists (IPs) who completed and passed the CIC certification exam for the first time between June 2008 and March 2009. Some of those first timers and other conference attendees visited the CBIC booth at the APIC Conference in June.

Executive Office at (913) 895-4607 or via e-mail at cbic-info@qoAMP.com.



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