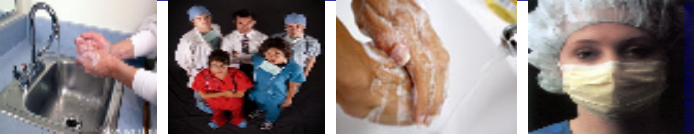




The Certification Corner

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



CBIC: The Certification Corner
Volume 2; Issue 2
May/June 2009

CBIC

President’s Corner—Sharon Krystofiak

Greetings to everyone and a special word of thanks to APIC members who have been such a tremendous help to CBIC this year! You’ve shared your thoughts about certification in our online survey and identified important components of your life as an IP in our Practice Analysis. You told us that you became certified for personal satisfaction and recognition; job requirement ranked third. Values such as professionalism and ranking infection prevention as a specialty certification were often mentioned. We all need to support our profession and achieving Board Certification in Infection Control certainly qualifies as a great way to prove your competency. Many Chapters have been proactive this year promoting certification through study groups for newer members, setting up certification booths at Chapter meetings and conferences, and inviting speakers to discuss the value of certification. It’s an exciting time to be an IP. We are pleased to announce that 345 IPs have achieved CIC status for the first time between June 2008 and March 2009.

We have heard from many people concerning CBIC’s decision to eliminate the 2-year practice requirement before becoming eligible to take the exam. CBIC wrestled with this issue for a few years and was unable to identify why 2 years of experience defines the learning curve to become an IP, particularly in today’s Internet-learning environment. We could not find a way to calibrate practice settings. While we have been working in teams with other departments driving the patient safety movement, many of our new IP colleagues have come from our Quality, Microbiology or Patient Safety departments. They may have an MPH or many years of experience in the health care setting. While the exam is still geared for IPs with 2 years of experience, that becomes an individual consideration. All candidates must still be actively working in IP&C positions and be involved in analysis/interpretation of collected data and investigation/surveillance of suspected outbreaks, plus have responsibilities in an additional three of five areas of practice listed in the Candidate Handbook. Because most of the questions on the exam require application and analysis of situations, it’s nearly impossible for anyone to simply memorize enough information to pass. It’s termed “letting the test do its job” to identify competency and we’re going to be watching closely to see if this change makes any difference in success rates. Stay tuned!

APIC

CHICA



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

International Infection Prevention Week
 October 18-24, 2009

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

New Web-Based SARE

The new web-based SARE was released in February. Because this is a new version of the examination, score reporting will be delayed until an adequate number of exams are completed to determine a passing point. As an incentive to encourage certificants to complete the SARE in a timely manner, the first 40 certificants completing and passing the web-based exam will receive a gold-filled CBIC CIC lapel pin as a thank you for helping with this process. If you have purchased the SARE, please consider completing it at your earliest convenience so a score can be determined.

Reminder...even though you may have completed the SARE, you will not receive any scoring information until a cut score can be determined, which could be later this summer.

Honoring the Newly Certified

During the APIC Annual Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, FL in June, CBIC plans to honor newly certified Infection Preventionists (IPs) who completed and passed the CIC certification exam for the first time between June 2008 and March 2009. Their names will be posted at the CBIC exhibit booth, so please stop and see if any of your Chapter friends have achieved this goal. We also encourage all certified attendees to stop by the booth to pick up their CIC ribbons. For those attendees who have not “taken the plunge” yet, CBIC Board of Directors will be available at the booth to answer any questions; they also love curbside consults.

The CBIC online practice exam will also be highlighted at the CBIC exhibit booth at the APIC Annual Conference. The CBIC Board of Directors will hand out discount coupons that can be applied toward the purchase the practice exam.

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Corner

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Corner

What are the most useful references to study for the certification exam? Are there any CBIC products available to help me study for the certification exam?

CBIC uses the APIC textbooks, and the most current guidelines and documents from the CDC, IHI, AIA, and APIC to develop test questions. CBIC has developed a comprehensive reference list of primary and secondary references used to support all certification exam questions. The [list](#) of references is available in the Candidate Handbook.

CBIC does not produce study guide materials or engage in educating about the content of the exam. CBIC has developed a Practice Exam available for purchase; it is designed to give the candidate an idea of the type and complexity of the questions asked on a certification exam, and to familiarize the candidate with the computerized testing experience using questions that have been retired from previous exams. Any other materials specific for certification preparation have not been developed or endorsed by CBIC, and we cannot guarantee their usefulness in preparing for the exam.

ognize their achievement. Please contact the CBIC Executive Office for a product order form.

The Certification Corner is an e-letter from the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.

All rights reserved 2009. If you would like to contribute or comment to this E-newsletter, please contact the CBIC Executive Office at (913) 895-4607 or via e-mail at cbic-info@goAMP.com.

CBIC Mission Statement

The mission of CBIC is to improve the quality of healthcare by increasing the number of professionals whose knowledge mastery in infection control and applied epidemiology has been demonstrated by certification.

Elevating the professional. Elevating the profession.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#). Questions or comments? E-mail us at cbic-info@goAMP.com or call (913) 895-4607. For more information regarding CBIC, visit our web site at www.cbic.org.