



Marketing Toolkit

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Know your Certification

The Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (CBIC®) administers the exam certifying individuals as Certified in Infection Control (CIC®). The purpose of the certification process is to protect the public by providing standardized measurement of current basic knowledge needed for persons practicing infection control; encouraging individual growth and study, thereby promoting professionalism among infection prevention and control professionals; and formally recognizing infection prevention and control professionals who fulfill the requirements for certification. Individuals who earn their CIC® credential join over 5,000 practitioners worldwide who are Certified in Infection Control. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accredits CBIC's certification program, which signifies that CBIC has met the highest national voluntary standards for private certification. CBIC periodically conducts job analyses to assure that certification measures current practices and knowledge required for infection prevention and control and applied epidemiology.

The Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (CBIC) is a voluntary autonomous multidisciplinary board that provides direction for and administers the certification process for professionals in infection prevention and control and applied epidemiology. CBIC is independent and separate from any other infection control –related organization or association. For more information about CBIC, visit www.cbic.org.

Who can use the CIC® designation

Persons who may use the CIC® designation are those who have successfully passed the initial certification examination and have maintained current certification, through successful recertification.

How to use the CIC® designation

CIC® is a federally registered trademark and property of the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. The CIC® credential may be used on resumes, business cards, letterhead, and other professional communications.

Inappropriate use of the CIC® designation

The CIC® credential may not be used for product or other endorsements. CICs must recertify every 5 years, or they will lose their CIC® credential. Those individuals who do not recertify within the prescribed time limit may no longer use the CIC® designation. No other person or persons are permitted to use the CIC® designation including, but not limited to, persons who fail to pass either the initial certification examination or the recertification examination.



Eligibility Requirements

Successful certification indicates competence in the actual practice of infection prevention and control and healthcare epidemiology, and is intended for individuals who are actively accountable for the infection prevention and control program within their current position.

In order to qualify to sit for your initial certification, you must apply to take the initial certification examination. In order to be eligible to take the initial certification exam, you must meet ALL of the following requirements:

You are accountable for the infection prevention and control activities/program in your setting and this is reflected in your current job description.

AND

You have a post-secondary degree from an accredited academic institution.

AND

You have had sufficient experience (recommended: two years) in infection prevention and control which includes all three (3) of the following:

1. Identification of infectious disease processes
2. Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation
3. Preventing and controlling the transmission of infectious agents

And at least two (2) of the remaining five (5) components:

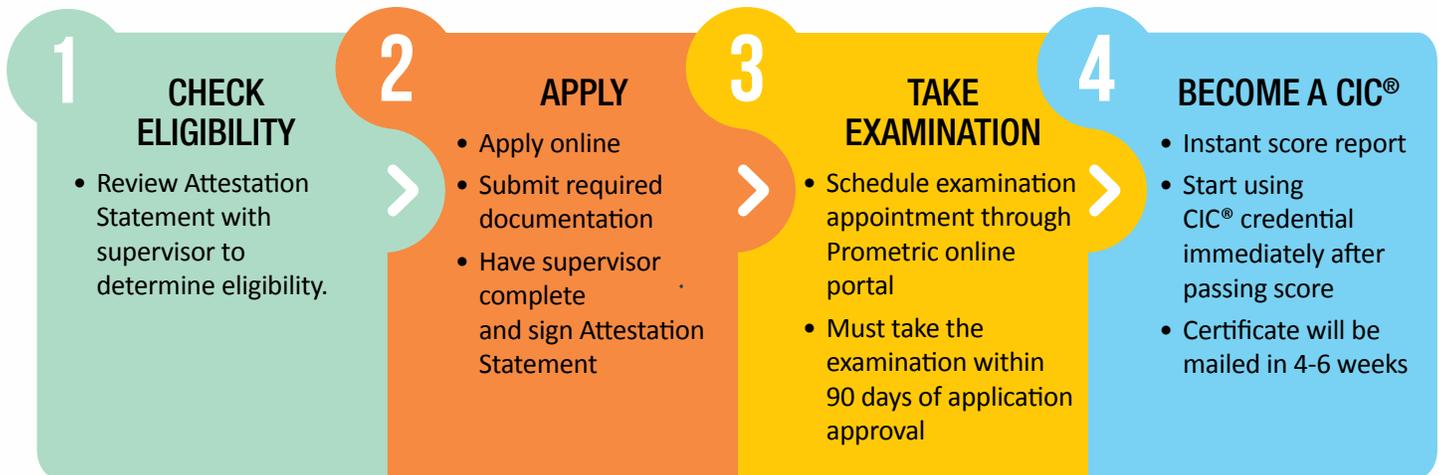
1. Employee/occupational health
2. Management and communication
3. Education and research
4. Environment of care
5. Cleaning, sterilization, disinfection, and asepsis

Candidates will be required to submit the following documentation with their application:

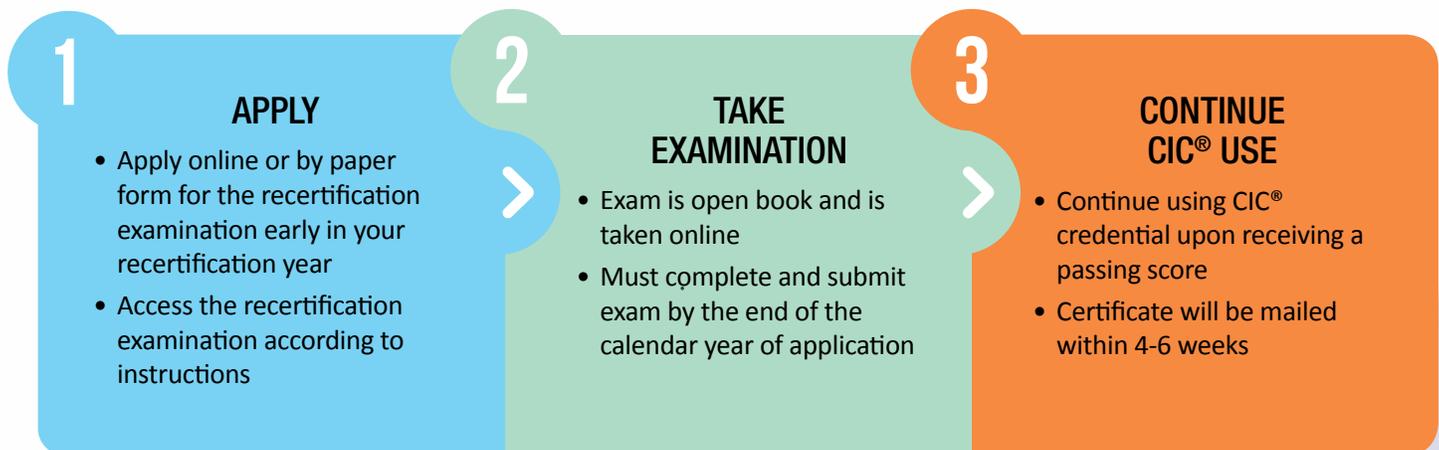
- Attestation Statement (completed, signed and dated by supervisor)
- Proof of Degree
- CV/Resume
- Official Job Description

Certification Process

Applying for Initial Certification



Applying for Recertification



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the cost of the exam?

The cost of the initial certification exam is \$375. The cost of the recertification exam is \$375.

What happens if the exam is not passed the first time?

There is a 90-day waiting period before a candidate will be eligible to take the exam again. Candidates will have to re-apply to take the exam again and will need to pay the \$375 examination fee again.

Can an application be cancelled?

Candidates may call the CBIC office and ask the staff to cancel their eligibility. CBIC will refund the cost minus a \$72 administrative processing fee.

What is the best course of action to prepare for the certification exam?

CBIC highly suggests reviewing the content outline and list of references available in the CBIC Candidate Handbook. CBIC does not endorse any particular method of study or education. APIC offers a Certification Competency Review Course. The texts that are used to write the questions for the exam may also be used to study and can be found under References on the CBIC website. Finally, many APIC Chapters have study groups through which candidates can prepare in the company of their peers. To see the CBIC webinar on Preparing for the Exam, please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lmd3HnDZnBg>.

Are there sample questions available?

There are sample questions in the Candidate Handbook. CBIC has an online practice exam available for purchase through their website as well.

How do I find out where the exam is given in my area?

Prometric, the testing company that administers the initial certification and recertification examinations, offers initial certification exams at hundreds of testing sites throughout the United States, Canada and at select international testing sites. A tool that allows candidates to locate the testing center closest to their home can be found on Prometric's site at www.prometric.com/CBIC. The recertification examination is a self-paced exam administered online, and therefore does not require candidates to travel to a testing facility.

How can I check on certification status?

Certificants and employers can check a certification status through CBIC's online directory, found on the website. Certificants may opt out of a public directory listing by submitting a request to CBIC at info@cbic.org.

Testimonials

Asra Salim, CIC

Being board Certified in Infection Control means that I have that gold standard that I have the background on what I do for my job and, I don't want to say the expert, but I've been evaluated on what I do and it's not just something that I'm telling you to do, I have the resources, the best practices in place, and the training to do my job. I think a lot of people, myself included, were really worried sitting for the test, studying for it, and kind of freaking out about it and put it off, but I think you have to just trust that you know what you're doing. This is what you do in your job, that's what I realized when I started studying, that I do these things every day and I shouldn't second guess myself. And when you're studying, the things that you're not really comfortable with or if you get that question wrong, go back to the APIC book, search online, go on the CDC website, find resources and kind of understand the process behind it and it's good for you for the test, but also for your job, because now you learned something else.

Kristin Mattick, BSRN, CIC

Definitely get certified. I think that it's well worth it and it's a credit to our profession. Just read the book, do the tests and ask questions to your infectious disease doctor, to your leaders or whoever can help you out with places that you're stuck. I definitely got the CIC book and read all of the chapters, did all of the tests, spoke to people who were more expert than I was on certain matters, especially on the leadership questions and I didn't find it to be a problem at all.

Sharon Hemsley, MSN, RN, CIC

For me, it gives me that credibility when I'm talking to physicians and hospital leadership that I do know what I'm talking about and I can tell them that I'm one of a small group that's rapidly growing across the nation, that is focused on improving health care.

Harold Boyer, RN, BSN, CIC

I most recently had been the solo Director Infection Prevention and Control at a 330 bed community hospital, specializing in CV surgery, Ortho surgery and the other usual specialties. The medical specialties were also well represented. The heart surgeons had a great need for help with their Infection Prevention practices. I was also appointed the organization's Safety Manager by our COO. Both positions were staffed with myself and a very excellent Administrative Assistant. This all required a tremendous amount of dedication and just down to earth work. Infection Prevention is my secondary passion as my very understanding wife and daughters are my primary passion. 12 hour days, 7 days a week were just routine. I worked with all of the surgeons, physicians, staff and every dept. to successfully reduce all categories of infection. All JC surveys outstanding. Many staff would tell me about their patients and what they all were all doing to prevent infection and injury. They were just as proud and pleased as anyone could be. I have been an RN BSN since 1976 having been in the US Navy as a Hospital Corpsman serving as a front line USMC Navy Medical Corpsman in Vietnam 1967/1968. I am also a very proud CIC since 11/12/1994. APIC and CBIC have been my greatest resource with timely guidance, education, support and networking. Thank you so very much for all you do.

