

Exploring Career Pathways in Infection Prevention and Control: The Role of Certification

PRESENTED BY

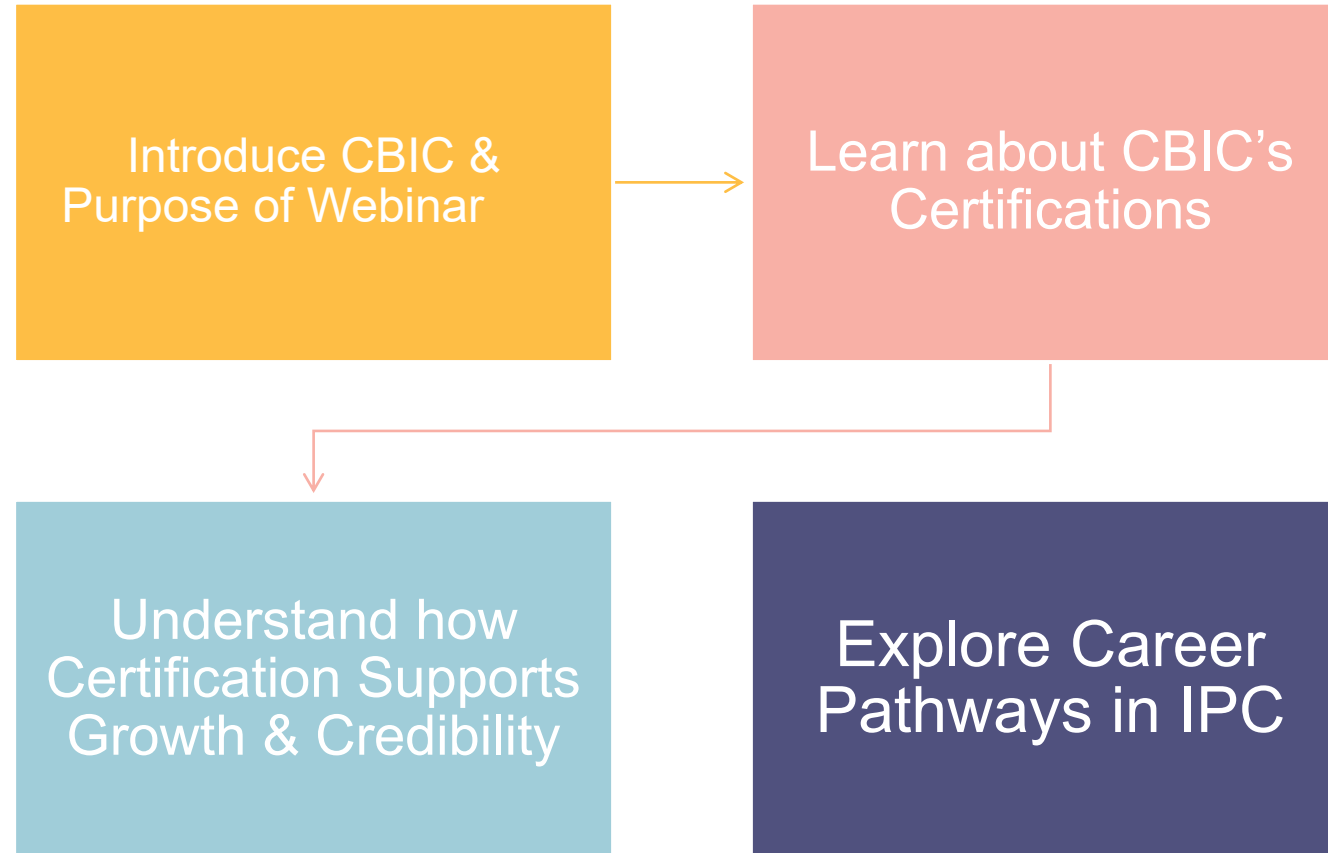
Steven J. Schweon, RN, MPH, MSN, CIC, LTC-CIP, AL-CIP, CPHQ, FSHEA, FAPIC

Paula St. Hill, DrPH, MPH, VA-BC, CIC, a-IPC

Tiffany Wiksten, DNP, RN, CIC



Welcome & Objectives



CBIC Certifications

Novice

a-IPC™

A measure of basic infection prevention knowledge

Early/Mid-Career

CIC®/LTC-CIP®

Standardized measure of the basic knowledge, skills and abilities expected of professionals working in the field of infection prevention and control

Expert

AL-CIP

Demonstration of professional expertise in infection prevention and control through portfolio submission. CIC®/LTC-CIP® is a pre-requisite.

Paula St. Hill, DrPH, MPH, VA-BC, CIC, a-IPC

- Member of CBIC Board of Directors
- First a-IPC certified: 2021
- First CIC® Certified: 2023



ASSOCIATE

**INFECTION PREVENTION
AND CONTROL**

CBIC Certification: a-IPC™



- Entry-level certification examination is a measure of basic infection prevention knowledge.
- Recertification is completed via infection prevention units or examination.
- Intended for those interested in gaining expertise or pursuing careers in infection prevention and control.
- Successful certificants have a credential that demonstrates their level of interest and dedication to the field.
- Can help with a transition to acute or long-term care.
- Demonstrates proficiency in what you do.
- **Stands out to hiring managers!**

a-IPC Content Outline

Identification of
infectious disease
processes

Surveillance and
epidemiologic
investigation

Preventing and
controlling the
transmission of
infectious agents

Environment of
care
















Cleaning, disinfection,
sterilization, and
asepsis

Employee /
occupational health

Management and
communication

Education and
research

Where in the world are a-IPCs?

	Country	# of a-IPCs
	United States	629
	Canada	141
	Saudi Arabia	13
	United Arab Emirates	8
	Egypt	7
	Qatar	5
	Jordan	3
	India	3
	Australia	2
	Kuwait	1
	Barbados	1
	Oman	1
	Kenya	1
	Philippines	1
	Bahrain	1

- 817 a-IPCs worldwide
- Exam released in 2020

Tiffany Wiksten, DNP, RN, CIC

- President - CBIC Board of Directors
- Infection Prevention Subject Matter Expert for an accrediting organization
- First CIC® Certified: 2014





CERTIFIED

IN

**INFECTION
CONTROL**

The Value of the CIC®



“CIC supports higher salary compensation, increases job satisfaction through a structured career development framework, improves patient outcomes, advances evidence-based infection prevention practices, and is valued by the public and within the health care industry.”

– American Journal of Infection Control 47 (2019) 1265–1269

The Value of the CIC®

- Instills professionalism among practitioners in infection prevention and control; and
- Formally recognizing experienced professionals in infection prevention and control who fulfill the requirements for CIC® certification and recertification.

Impact of Certification

- CIC IPs may have a stronger understanding than other practitioners of the evidence for certain IPAC practices.
- CIC IPs are more likely to recommend implementing them in the hospitals where they work-and especially when the lead IP is certified.
- Hospitals hiring certified infection preventionists were more likely to implement certain infection prevention practices.

Hsu, Yea-Jen et al. Impact of certified infection preventionists in acute care settings: A systematic review. American Journal of Infection Control
Published online: June 25, 2022 (p334-339)



CIC[®] Eligibility Guidelines

1. Completed post-secondary education in a health-related field including but not limited to medicine, nursing, laboratory technology, or public health. Post-secondary includes public or private universities, colleges, community colleges, etc.
2. Direct responsibility for the infection prevention program activities in a healthcare setting



CIC[®] Eligibility Guidelines

3. Work experience, defined as active engagement in infection prevention, determined by a current job description, for compensation, for a minimum of:

- At least one-year full-time employment **OR**
- Two (2) years part-time employment **OR**
- Completed 3,000 hours of infection prevention work experience earned during the previous three (3) years

CIC[®] Content Outline

Identification of
infectious
disease processes

Surveillance and
epidemiologic
investigation

Preventing and
controlling the
transmission of
infectious agents

Environment of
care















Cleaning, disinfection
sterilization, and
asepsis

Employee /
occupational
health

Management and
communication

Education and
research

Where in the world are CICs?

	Country	# of CICs
	United States	9161
	Canada	1179
	Saudi Arabia	469
	United Arab Emirates	181
	Egypt	109
	India	97
	Qatar	54
	Oman	31
	Kuwait	16
	Philippines	16
	Jordan	15
	Singapore	13
	Pakistan	12
	Bahrain	11

- 11,445 CICs worldwide in 50 countries
- Countries with 10+ CICs listed

Steven J. Schweon RN, MPH, MSN, CIC, LTC-CIP, AL-CIP, CPHQ, FSHEA, FAPIC

- Member of CBIC Board of Directors
- Infection Prevention Consultant
- First CIC® Certified: 1997
- LTC-CIP Certified: 2022
- AL-CIP Certified: 2025



**LONG-TERM CARE
CERTIFICATION**

IN

**INFECTION
CONTROL**

CBIC Certification: LTC-CIP®



Long-term care is a unique setting








- Nursing homes
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Assisted living facilities

Recent surveys and interviews reveal the LTC-CIP:

- Prepares IPC professionals to prevent and handle outbreaks
- Increases interfacility collaboration and communication
- Improves resident and staff safety
- Encourages the use of evidence-based data
- Is well respected by surveyors and can improve survey outcomes

Schweon SJ and Pogorzelska-Maziarz M. Survey said! LTC-CIP certificant's perspective with passing the certification exam. *Am J Infect Control*. 2025;53(3):291-296.

Where in the world are LTC-CIPs?

	Country	# of LTC-CIPs
	Canada	578
	United States	491
	Saudi Arabia	8
	Egypt	2
	United Arab Emirates	2
	Jordan	1
	Bermuda	1

- 1,083 LTC-CIPs worldwide
- Exam released in 2023

LTC-CIP® Content Outline

Long-Term Care
Settings

Management and
Communication of the
Infection Prevention
Program

Identification of
Infectious Diseases

Surveillance and
Epidemiologic
Investigation

Prevention and Control
of Infectious and
Communicable Diseases

Environment of Care

Cleaning, Disinfection,
Sterilization of Medical
Devices and Equipment

Antimicrobial
Stewardship

Employee/Occupational
Health



LTC-CIP® Eligibility Guidelines

1. Responsibility for the infection prevention and control programs/activities in a long-term care setting.
2. Completed post-secondary education in a health-related field including but not limited to medicine, nursing, laboratory technology, public health, or biology. Post-secondary includes public or private universities, colleges, community colleges etc.

Helpful Resources

- How to talk to your supervisor about certification – toolkits:
 - [a-IPC™](#)
 - [CIC®](#)
 - [LTC-CIP®](#)
- [CBIC Candidate Handbook](#)
- [Examination Content Outlines](#)
- [APIC Education & Certification Prep](#)

What first drew you to a
career in infection
prevention and control?



How have you seen IPC
roles evolve in recent
years?



In what ways has
certification enhanced
your professional
credibility or career
opportunities?



How do employers
typically view certification
when considering
candidates for
advancement?



What are some unique challenges and opportunities for IPC professionals in long-term care vs. acute care?



How did you know you
were ready to take the
exam and how did you
prepare?



What tips do you have for
a successful examination
experience?

