



Sandra Callery
2022 CBIC President

The Impact of Certification



One of CBIC's strategic goals for 2019-2022 was to demonstrate the value of certification in infection prevention and control. In 2019, the *American Journal of Infection Control and Epidemiology* (AJIC) published our brief report¹ on the perceived value of the CIC® credential. Over 34,000 surveys were sent to Infection Preventionists (IPs) and other stakeholders across North America. Respondents identified an increased sense of professionalism, competency, and career growth associated with obtaining the CIC® credential, as well as improved patient safety.¹ Take a look at our CIC® in the Spotlight ([cbic.org](https://www.cbic.org)) to read "first hand" how certified IPs around the world feel about their achievements.

Perception is one thing, but do certified IPs impact infection prevention and control practices? This was the question posed by Yea-Jen Hsu, et al, in their recently published study in AJIC.² The authors conducted a systematic review of published research spanning the past 21 years. The results showed that hospitals hiring certified IPs were more likely to implement certain infection prevention practices. They concluded that CIC® IPs may have a stronger understanding than other practitioners of the evidence for certain IPAC practices and are more likely to recommend implementing them in the hospitals where they work, especially when the lead IP is certified.

These studies demonstrate the perceived value and influence of certified IPs, but more studies are needed to explore the impact of CIC® IPs on healthcare-associated infections.

Now, more than ever, external activities by legislatures have increased their focus on certification requirements as it continues to validate one's competency within the profession. Certification allows employers and other stakeholders to identify individuals with the competencies needed to perform a role or task. This has been identified in not only acute care, but also in long-term care, ambulatory care, and other healthcare settings such as college health. Check out our CBIC site where college health professionals share why CIC® IPs are key to preventing outbreaks, averting threats, and preparing for the unexpected.

Over the past year, it has been great to connect with local APIC Chapters to discuss the value of certification. CBIC is happy to connect with local chapter leaders and to share with your members the many pathways to certification. Please reach out to Jessica Dangles (jdangles@cbic.org) in our CBIC office if you would like to have your local APIC Chapter engage with CBIC.

As we head into the autumn months and prepare for another school year and monitor for respiratory infections, don't forget to prepare for recertification! For those recertifying this year by IPU's (infection prevention educational units), completed submissions are due October 31. The deadline for those purchasing the recertification exam is November 30. CBIC staff are here to help if you have any questions (info@cbic.org). This is also my opportunity to say thank you for your passion, your leadership, and your positive influence on healthcare practices, as certified Infection Preventionists.

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References

1. JMarx JF, Callery S, Boukidjian R. Value of certification in infection prevention and control. *Am J Infect Control*. 2019;47:1265-1269.
2. Y. Hsu ZZ, et al. Impact of certified infection preventionist in acute care settings: a systematic review. *Am J Infect Control*. Available on-line June 25, 2022.