

CBIC Updates to IPAC Canada

PRESENTED BY:

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

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



Jessica Dangles, MBA, MS, PMP, CAE

- CBIC Executive Director
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Science in Human Resources
- Project Management Certified
- 10+ years experience in healthcare certification and licensure



What is CBIC?

Certification Board of Infection
Control and Epidemiology, Inc.

Voluntary, autonomous,
multidisciplinary board

MISSION: *Provide pathways to demonstrate and maintain competence in infection prevention and control.*

VISION: *A world free of infections through demonstrated professional competency.*

Organizational structure:



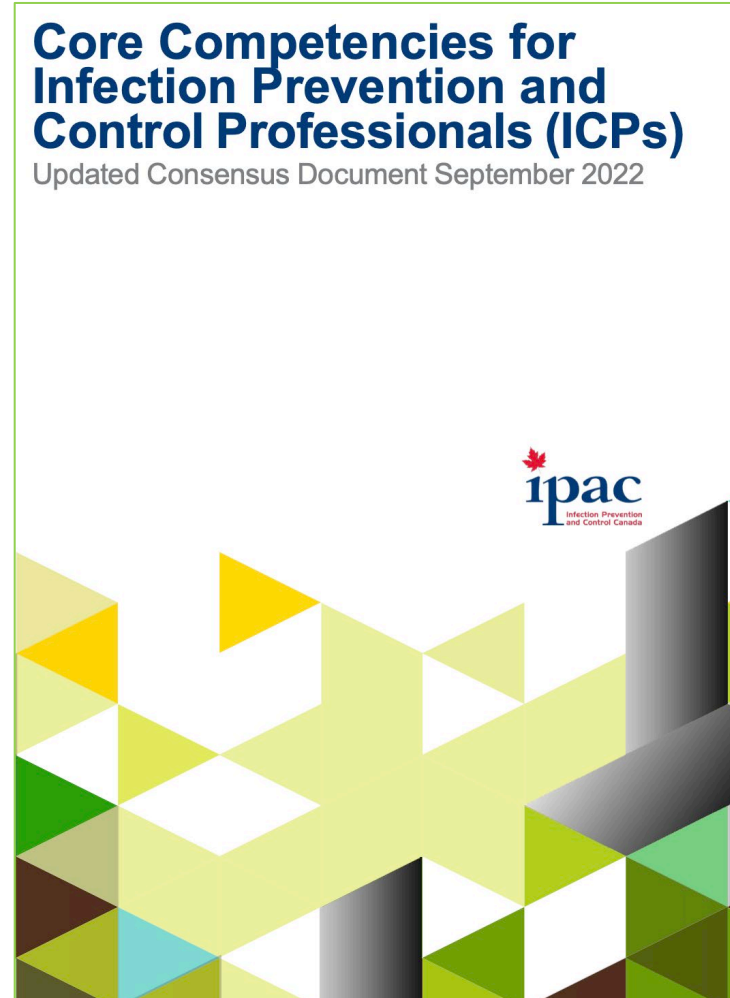
Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology

Certification Board of Infection Control & Epidemiology

APIC Consulting



- CBIC and IPAC Canada work closely together to promote certification.
- Certification importance is mentioned in the “Core Competencies for Infection Prevention and Control Professionals”



- Very thankful to IPAC Canada for all their work with promoting IPAC certification with the “Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Standard for Long-Term Care Homes.”

**Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)
Standard for Long-Term Care Homes**

April 2022

Revised September 2023

CBIC Certifications

Novice

a-IPC™

A measure of basic infection prevention knowledge

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.

Core Competencies for Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (ICPs)

Professionalism—

The ICP is able to:

- Obtain and maintain certification in IPAC (CIC®) and keep current with the science, innovations and technologies, new methods and approaches in infection prevention and control.



ASSOCIATE

**INFECTION PREVENTION
AND CONTROL**

CBIC Certification: a-IPC™



- Entry-level certification examination is a measure of basic infection prevention knowledge.
- 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?

	<u>Country</u>	<u># of aipcs</u>
	United States	577
	Canada	133
	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

- 755 a-IPCs worldwide
- Exam released in 2020



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)

Survey of Surveillance

- Survey of surveillance in Middle Eastern and North African countries
- Survey of 269 IPC staff using electronic Infection Control Network database in Arab countries
- 69% had surveillance activities
- Conducting surveillance and using appropriate methods were significantly associated with CBIC certification





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	8687
	Canada	1098
	Saudi Arabia	425
	United Arab Emirates	174
	India	96
	Egypt	93
	Qatar	50
	Oman	23
	Kuwait	14
	Jordan	13
	Philippines	13
	Singapore	11
	Bahrain	10
	Pakistan	10

- 10,787 CICs worldwide in 47+ countries
- Countries with 10+ CICs listed



**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

Where in the world are LTC-CIPs?

	<u>Country</u>	<u># of LTC-CIPs</u>
	United States	443
	Canada	412
	Saudi Arabia	8
	Egypt	2
	United Arab Emirates	2
	Jordan	1
	Bermuda	1

- 869 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.

Recertification



CBIC Recertification Overview

CBIC certifications are valid for five years from the year of successful examination

Recertification takes place every five years

Recertification can be completed via infection prevention units (IPUs) or examination.

CIC® Recertification Updates

Effective January 1, 2026, the open-book unproctored recertification examination will no longer be offered.

Recertification will be obtainable through infection prevention units (IPUs) or by retaking the initial CIC® proctored examination.

Recertification by IPUUs

What is an IPU?

- IPU = Infection Prevention Unit (IPU) = continuing education credits
- Can be achieved by*:
 - Presenting at conferences,
 - Authoring publications
 - Attending local or national conferences,
 - Participating in a professional organization in a position of leadership
 - And more! IPU guide available online.

*must be infection prevention related

Recertification by IPU

- Candidates must submit an IPU portfolio demonstrating completion of a minimum of 40 IPU
- a-IPCs with expiration dates through 2029 currently have a prorated number of hours – [check the website for details](#)
- IPU must be provided by a credible organization and at least 20/40 infection prevention units must be sponsored through an accredited organization or state licensing board.
- Candidates can accumulate IPU any time after their previous recertification submission date throughout their five-year recertification period
- Candidates may access IPU portfolio once certified and must submit by October 31st of their expiration year.

New! Recertification by IPU's

- Certificants who showcase leadership skills via participation in a formal mentorship program through a professional organization related to infection prevention and control may now earn 3 IPU's per year of program participation.
- To promote continuous learning, effective 2028, candidates must demonstrate that a portion of their IPU's have been attained in different years of the 5-year recertification cycle.
- Effective 2028, for multi-session Infection Control Courses that offer continuous education units, an IPU may be awarded for each educational session of 1 hour or more, to a maximum of 30 IPU's for the course.
- The CBIC Board **recommends** candidates earn at least two IPU's from DEI and Health Equity within healthcare as a part of the minimum required 40 IPU's. DEI and Health Equity should be self-evident in the title or learning objectives.

Recertification by IPUs: Helpful Hints

- Submit your IPUs as you earn them!
- Avoid late fees! Don't wait until October 31st to submit your portfolio
- Reach out to staff with questions
- Once your credits have been approved, you will receive a new 5-year certification and can begin submitting IPUs for your next portfolio, due in five years.

IPU Categories

- Online, print, or live format education
- Local, national or international conferences and workshops
- Academic education
- Publications
- Presentations
- Participation in professional organization
- Teaching
- Research



Certified as a CIC®
and LTC-CIP®?
Credits can be used in
both portfolios if the
IPUs are earned
within your 5-year
certification cycle.

IPUs and Chapter Activities

Does my Chapter activity count towards IPUs?

- Subject matter related to infection prevention and control, and falls within at least one of the eight domains
- Able to verify chapter member attendance or participation by providing required documentation



YES!

Examples of IPU Activities*

- Attendance at national conferences (APIC/IPAC Canada)
- Online, print or live format education
- Webinars
- Online educational modules
- Participation in a professional organization
- Elected position on an APIC Chapter Board (Treasurer, Secretary, President, President-Elect)

*All activities must be provided by or presented through a credible accredited organization

Potential Accredited Providers



Example verification form

Official organization letterhead

• Certificate of Completion •

IPAC Canada Education Webinar

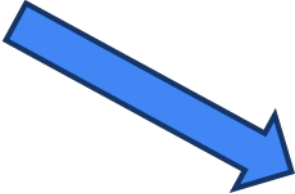
28 April 2021

Dialysis
- CIC Exam Study Group (IPAC Ottawa Region)

Presenter
Colleen Weir

TOH

Eligible for 2 IPU's per hour by the Certification Board of Infection Control.



Accreditation Information



Activity Category: Education module (online, paper, or live format) | IPU's earned: 2

IPU Conversion Chart

	Duration of participation/instruction	CEUs	CMEs	CNEs	IPUs
Applicable Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online, paper, or live format education• Attendance at national conference IP-related sessions• Teaching	60 minutes of instruction or 1 "contact hour"	0.1	1	1	1

IPUs Resources

- ▶▶▶ IPU's FAQ page: <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/Certification-FAQs/Recertification.htm#RecertificationIPU>
- ▶▶▶ IPU's downloadable Criteria Chart:
https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/PDFs/2024-IPU-Criteria-Chart_V5.pdf
- ▶▶▶ IPU's Portfolio Manual: https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/PDFs/2025-Recertification-by-Continuing-Education-for-CBIC-Examinations_1.2.2025.pdf



**ADVANCED
LEADERSHIP
CERTIFICATION**

IN

**INFECTION
PREVENTION**

CBIC Certification: AL-CIP



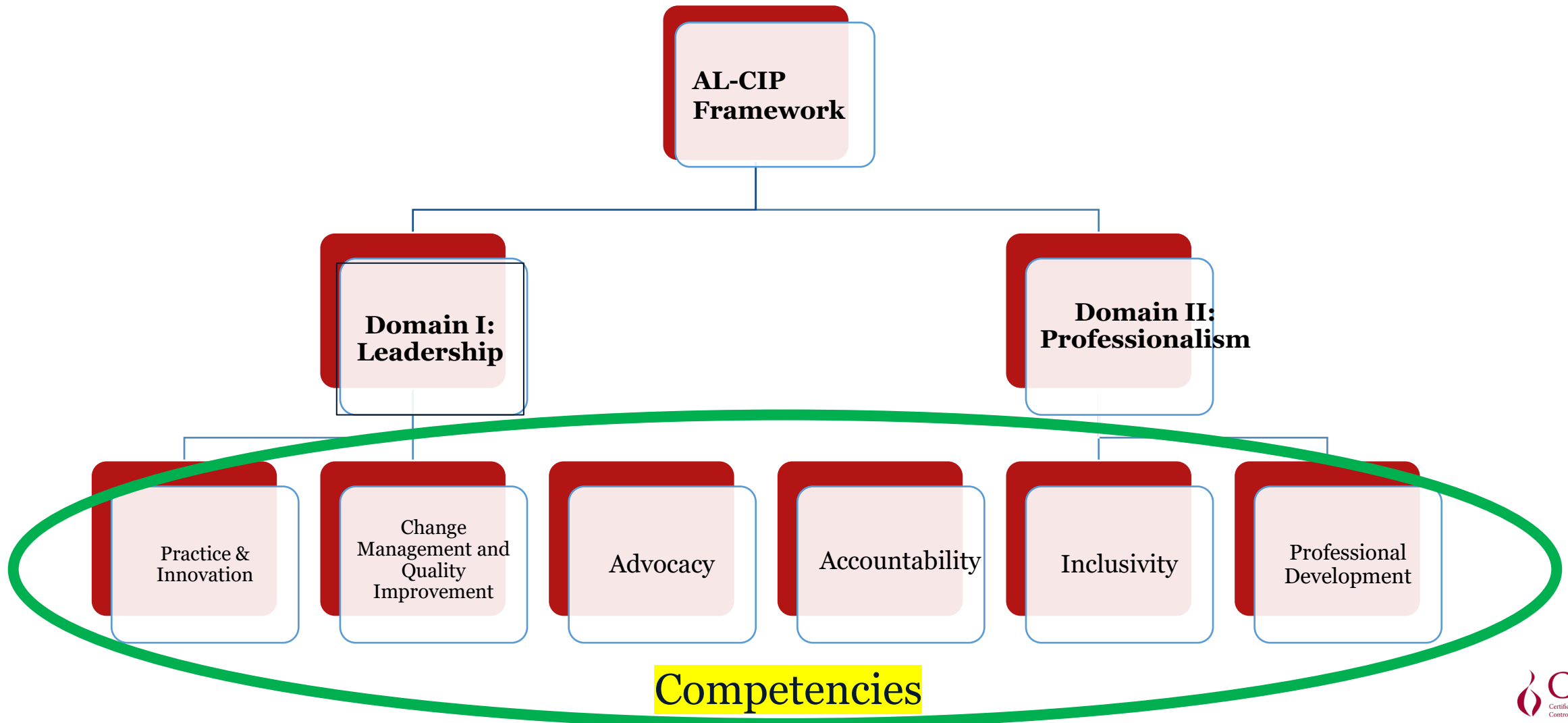
- The Advanced Leadership Certification in Infection Prevention & Control (AL-CIP) is an assessment of knowledge, skills and abilities expected of individuals who demonstrate professional expertise, leadership and impact in the field of infection prevention and control.
- Portfolio-based assessment.
- Demonstrates leadership within infection prevention and control that has a measurable impact.
- Application dates: January 21, 2025-February 28, 2025 (now closed) & July 10, 2025-August 15, 2025



AL-CIP Eligibility Requirements

1. Demonstrated positive impact on the profession: Active engagement and advanced infection prevention and control practice, leadership, education, research, policy and/or advocacy for a minimum of 5-10 years.
2. Active CIC[®] or LTC-CIP[®] certification

AL-CIP Framework



Examples of evidence*:

- Publications (e.g., peer and non-peer-reviewed journal article, guidelines, compendium). For this type of evidence, include a description of your role in the publication and/or your role in the activities described in the publication in your rationale.
- Presentations (e.g., chapter, regional, national, or international conferences; in-person, virtual, classroom, workshop; poster presentation). For this type of evidence, describe your role in the presentation (development, implementation, delivery, etc.) in your rationale.
- Work product (e.g., toolkits, guidance documents, strategic plan, website, practice changes). For this type of evidence, clearly describe your contribution to the work product (e.g., independent, as part of a team, activities, outcomes as a result of the product) in your rationale.

*all supporting evidence provided must be within the last ten years

Examples of evidence*:

- Program development materials (e.g., academic syllabus, website, course materials, program evaluation). For this type of evidence, describe your role in the program (e.g., original proposer, development, teaching, co-teaching, etc.) in your rationale.
- Credential / certifications relevant to leadership in IPC (e.g., Six sigma black belt, CPHQ, CPH, CEU/CPD). For this type of evidence, describe programs or outcomes that resulted from you having achieved this credential or certification, in your rationale.

*all supporting evidence provided must be within the last ten years

AL-CIP Resources

Visit the CBIC website to learn more: <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/Get-Certified/Get-Started/Advanced-Certification-in-Infection-Prevention.htm>

- [Candidate Handbook](#)
- [Pre-recorded webinar](#)
- Sign up for an informational session – coming soon with the second application cycle
- Read more about the [domains](#)

We asked! What does certification mean to you?



Aulin Vitus, BSN, RN, CIC

Being the infection prevention and control manager at my workplace challenged me to move out of my comfort zone and be more proactive by engaging with different stakeholders.

[READ MORE...](#)



Barmak Kusha, MPH, CIC

There has never been a better time than now to enter the field, for a variety of reasons. I advise to take the time to shadow, intern, or consult in a hospital IPC department, and experience all the aspects of the profession as much as they can...

[READ MORE...](#)



Benjamin Pagarigan, III, MD, BSMT, MHA, CIC

Being a CIC is not just letters or words that can be added after your name. It is a legacy that you can show the world that you have the knowledge and you can confidently manage any facility, any infections, any outbreak with patient safety in mind in making the world safe thru infection prevention.

[READ MORE...](#)



Azhar Aziz, CIC

Being CIC gives me more confidence, more experience and stimulation to continue my pathway and more success

[READ MORE...](#)



Benjamin Galvan, MLS(ASCP), CIC

Taking on the role of infection preventionist has given me the opportunity to challenge myself, get out of my comfort zone, and truly engage with my coworkers and colleagues throughout the hospital.

[READ MORE...](#)



Brandi Ford, CIC

I have only held my CIC certificate for a short while, but just in merely studying for the exam, I learned so much about my day-to-day work in my current position! I now have more confidence in providing and submitting information to Physicians and to Administrative levels.

[READ MORE...](#)

We asked! What does certification mean to you?

- Being a CIC® means that I have reached a level of proficiency as an IP professional where I am respected and relied on for my expertise. I take pride in being recognized for the professional practice experience and scientific knowledge base required to be an independent IP professional.
- I became CIC® certified for a few reasons. To identify any knowledge gaps while I was learning to be an IP, validate my self-training, in other words to prove to myself and others that “I knew what I knew”.
- I have worked in the senior living industry for 30 years and feel that learning and growth are essential to nursing practices. This certification adds another layer of expertise and can be applied to many different aspects of care delivery.

Celebrate your certification!

CBIC Corner: Share your certification journey with us

A well-rounded team is a strong team: A conversation with Infection Preventionist, Jill Holdsworth, CIC, FAPIC, NREMT, CRCST

September 8, 2023 / Jessica Dangles /



Infection preventionists work in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and more. It should be no surprise that infection preventionists from different backgrounds bring unique perspectives, knowledge, and skills that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of infection prevention.

The Certification Board of Infection Control & Epidemiology, Inc. (CBIC®) is a multidisciplinary board with members with backgrounds in laboratory medicine, microbiology, epidemiology, nursing, public health, just to name a few. This results in diverse expertise, perspectives, and skills to collaborate on exam development, decision-

making, and strategic planning. CBIC understands that a multidisciplinary team is crucial in infection

Latest news

NAVIGATING YOUR IPU PORTFOLIO

[Exploring your CBIC profile](#)

[A well-rounded team is a strong team: A conversation with Infection Preventionist, Jill Holdsworth, CIC, FAPIC, NREMT, CRCST](#)

[Navigating Username and Password Issues with your CBIC Account](#)

[CBIC goes to Orlando!](#)

Engage with CBIC in-person & virtually

- HSPA annual conference: April 28-29, Louisville, KY
- IPAC Canada annual conference: June 1 - 4, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- APIC annual conference: June 16-18, Phoenix, AZ

We want to connect with your local IPAC Chapter!

- Email jdangles@cbic.org to set up a virtual session

Get featured on the CBIC spotlight page!

- <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/News-and-Media/CBIC-Spotlight.htm>



Thank you!

Contact Me:



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