



CIC®
Certification:
Are you ready
to commit,
prepare, and
succeed?



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A NEW YEAR is a time to reflect on the past year and prepare for the future. In 2014, many of you were involved in ensuring your facilities and communities were adequately prepared to respond to the threat of emerging viruses. Increased public awareness of the risks associated with infection comes with increased demand for expertise, accountability, and assurance of competency. Successfully passing the certification exam and attaining the CIC credential provides a recognized, respected, and validated measure of infection control competency that forms the basis of our profession.

The feature article in this edition of *Prevention Strategist* provides an overview of the new Novice Roadmap for the Infection Preventionist, which provides a general structure for your time on the job, from day one until you pass the CIC exam. Movement along this path requires knowledge acquisition and application of skills that align with the core competencies established by CBIC's practice analysis research. Successful transition between career stages is measured through attaining the CIC credential, as defined by the APIC IP Competency Model.^{1,2,3}

As a result of CBIC's 2014 practice analysis survey, a new content outline for the CIC exam will be implemented in July 2015 with the release of the new examination forms. The new content outline contains *eight* domains; the 2010 content outline contained *six*. While these additional domains do not reflect new examination content, the survey results illustrated they were weighted with sufficient importance to be identified as separate domains.

2015 content outline:

- 1) Identification of Infectious Disease Processes
- 2) Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation
- 3) Preventing/Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents
- 4) Employee/Occupational Health
- 5) Management and Communication
- 6) Education and Research
- 7) Environment of Care (*new*)
- 8) Cleaning, Sterilization, Disinfection, Asepsis (*new*)

Please refer to the CBIC website (www.cbic.org) under the certification tab for additional information on the updated content outline.

We want you to succeed! There have never been so many supports, resources, and online communities available to assist you on your certification journey. Our partner organizations, APIC and IPAC-Canada, excel at providing education and resources to further your knowledge related to the practice of infection prevention and control. Many local association chapters have well-established study groups that welcome new participants. APIC also provides opportunities to its members for financial assistance and educational resources to assist with certification through the Competency Advancement Assistance program.

Visit us at www.cbic.org/certification/media to access our podcasts and webinars that may assist you in preparing for the examination. Please take the opportunity to join our growing list of followers on Facebook for *Testing Tuesdays* and *Testing Thursdays* [www.facebook.com/pages/Certification-Board-of-Infection-Control-and-Epidemiology-Inc/130538170367437]. On these days, practice questions are posted to test your knowledge. One day after posting, the answers are posted in the comments area below the practice questions.

Use the hashtags, #TestingTuesdays, #TestingThursdays, and #CIC to view the entire collection of questions.

In 2015, take the first step down the path to certification—commit. Then prepare. With preparation, comes confidence. Preparation and confidence lead to success!

References

1. Murphy, D., et al. (2012) Competency in infection prevention: a conceptual approach to guide current and future practice. *American Journal of Infection Control*, 40(4):296-303.
2. Hanchett, M. (2012). Moving the profession forward. *Prevention Strategist*, 5 (2):46-51.
3. Hanchett, M. (2013). Self-assessment to advance IP competency. *Prevention Strategist*, 6 (2):63-67.

Since the release of the 4th edition of the *APIC Text*, we've frequently been asked whether the 3rd or 4th edition should be used to study for the certification exam. Please be assured that either text can be used to prepare for the current examination. Beginning in July 2015 with the release of the new examination, the recommended reference will be the 4th edition.