

The Road to CIC Certification

Dr. Ruth Carrico and Dr. Kathryn N. Suh

A Webber Training Teleclass

The Road to CIC® Certification: Getting Started and Working Toward Success

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Kathryn N. Suh, MD, FRCPC, CIC

Hosted by Paul Webber
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Your Presenters*



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Objectives

- Review basic elements of certification: candidate requirements and the application process
- Appreciate the role certification plays in a competent approach to infection prevention and control (IPAC)
- Value the impact of certification on the profession of infection prevention and control
- Be aware of strategies that can help the infection preventionist prepare for certification



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An IP has been working in a healthcare facility for just over one year and is thinking about certification. Where to go for information regarding certification and the process? How to get started on the journey?



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Eligibility for Initial Certification

1. Primary responsibility for the infection prevention and control program for their employing organization.
2. Educational requirements
3. Currently working in healthcare setting
4. Practice requirements



Definition of Infection Control Practice

The clinical practice of infection control occurs in a variety of settings and includes **both**:

- analysis and interpretation of collected infection prevention and control data; and
- the investigation and surveillance of suspected outbreaks of infection.

AND



Definition of Infection Control Practice

At least three of the following:

- Planning, implementation and evaluation of IPAC measures;
- Education of individuals about infection risk, prevention and control;
- Development and revision of IPAC policies and procedures;
- Management of IPAC activities;
- Provision of consultation on infection risk assessment, prevention and control strategies.



Eligibility for Recertification

- Individuals who are currently certified are eligible to recertify
- Must recertify every 5 years to maintain certification
- Lapsed certificants must reapply as a “first time” applicant



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A respiratory therapist has been working in healthcare for a number of years and has recently accepted a position as a facility IP. He feels that he is an excellent healthcare worker and is comfortable with the basics of patient care. Recently, a discussion regarding competency has arisen in the workplace. How can this person approach the need to demonstrate competency in this new role?



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Competency

- More than knowledge
- The ability to put knowledge into action
- Recall, Application, Analysis
- Using content knowledge to make decisions and determine approaches, interventions, alternatives
- Demonstrates ability to apply knowledge across healthcare settings



http://www.apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/epublications/IP_Comp_article_PS1202.pdf

Competency and Certification

APIC Competency Model for the IP

- Identifies domains of the role
- Helps provide a roadmap for movement from novice to expert



Green areas indicate critical competencies required for the attainment of APIC. The APIC Competency Model is a tool for self-assessment and professional development.



http://www.apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/epublications/IP_Comp_article_PS1202.pdf

Objectives of Certification

- Provide a standardized measurement of **current** essential knowledge needed for persons practicing infection prevention and control
- Enable demonstration of competency
- Encourage individual growth and study, thereby promoting professionalism among professionals in infection prevention and control
- Formally recognize professionals in infection prevention and control who fulfill the requirements for certification and recertification.



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How Is Certification Different from Licensure?

- Licensure reflects the minimum level required for practice
- Certification implies competence:
 - “essential knowledge, behaviors, skills that in individual should possess and demonstrate to practice in a specific discipline”
 - Indicates **expert knowledge, expertise**
 - Protects the public



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Hoyt KS et al, Adv Emerg Nurs J 2009

Why Certify?

- **Personal benefit**
 - Increased accomplishment and satisfaction
 - Enhanced recognition and credibility
 - Evidence of commitment to profession
- **Professional benefit**
 - Lifelong learning and commitment
 - Demonstration of knowledge and expertise
 - Empowerment and job retention



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American Board of Nursing Specialties 2006

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Does Certification Really Matter?

- **ICU:** Kendall-Gallagher D et al. Competence and certification of RNs and safety of patients in ICUs. *Am J Crit Care* 2009;18:106-16.
- **Surgery:** Kendall-Gallagher D et al. Nurse specialty certification, inpatient mortality, and failure to rescue. *J Nurs Scholarsh* 2011;43:188-194
- **Oncology:** Coleman EA et al. Effect of certification in oncology nursing on nursing sensitive outcomes. *Clin J Oncol Nurs* 2009;13:165-72.
- **Med-Surg units:** Boltz M et al. Patient safety in medical-surgical units: can nurse certification make a difference? *Medsurg Nurs* 2013;22:26-32,37.



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An IP has been talking with her immediate supervisor regarding the value of certification. Certification is included as a job requirement and the IP wants to be able to discuss the value of certification to the organization in an effort to give depth to the discussion regarding reimbursement, career ladders, and position within the organization. What evidence can this IP cite?



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Impact of Certification in Infection Control

- Pogorzelska M et al. Certification in infection control matters: Impact of infection control department characteristics and policies on rates of multidrug-resistant infections. *AJIC* 2013; 40:96-101.
- Saint S et al. Perceived strength of evidence supporting practices to prevent health care-associated infection: results from a national survey of infection prevention personnel. *AJIC* 2013; 41:100-106.
- Carrico RM et al. Health care personnel immunization programs: An assessment of knowledge and practice among infection preventionists in US health care facilities. *AJIC* 2013; 41:581-584.



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The IP is ready to take the plunge and has committed to the certification process. What steps should she take to begin the studying process?



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Preparing for Certification

- Review the Candidate Handbook and the Content Outline

Table 3. Overview of examination specifications

Content domain	Item	RE-AP-AN*
Identification of infectious disease processes	18	5-10-3
Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation	38	9-23-6
Preventing/controlling the transmission of infectious agents	39	9-24-6
Employee/occupational health	10	2-6-2
Management and communication (leadership)	16	4-9-3
Education and research	14	4-9-1
Total	135	33-81-21

*The number of items requiring recall, application, and analysis, respectively.

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Feltovich F et al, AJIC 2010 <http://www.cbic.org/UserFiles/file/2013CandidateHandbook.pdf>

Preparing for Certification

- Review the Candidate Handbook
- Identify the resources suggested in the Handbook
- Perform a personal assessment
- Identify strengths and weaknesses
- Identify a mentor(s) or study partner(s)
- Develop a study plan and timeline
- Explore test taking skills and how to improve

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<http://www.cbic.org/UserFiles/file/2013CandidateHandbook.pdf>

How to Study

- Find a quiet place for studying
- Schedule regular study sessions and get support from those key for your success
- Test yourself periodically
- Remember recall, application, analysis



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CBIC Certification Examinations

- Comprehensive, job-related, objective tests
- 150 multiple choice questions; 15 questions under evaluation, not included in scoring
- Developed from a practice analysis of IPs in the U.S., Canada and other countries
- Recognized by APIC and IPAC-Canada as the standard for certification in infection control

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Hints from Successful Test-takers

- “Obtaining your certification isn’t limited to those of us that work in hospitals”
- “I followed the content outline...and read the corresponding chapters in the APIC Text”
- “I took the CBIC practice exam, and wrote notes and flash cards too”

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Affording the Exam

- Competency Advancement Assistance (APIC)
- Set money aside on a regular basis
- Daily, weekly, or monthly
- ASK...
 - Ask your employer to pay
 - Perhaps they will cover a portion
 - Would they repay you if you pass?
 - Tuition remission



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How to Apply

- Online or paper application
- Eligibility criteria must be met in order to process application
- Once eligibility is confirmed, test must be scheduled within 90 days
- Opportunity to select testing site, time
- Changes coming in this process as part of testing process improvements



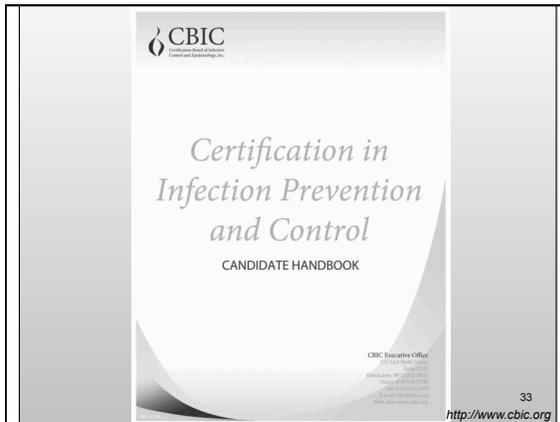
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Scheduling the Exam

- Pick a convenient time that meets your needs:
 - Work backward to provide adequate study time
 - Plan for a time of year that you aren't busy
 - Assure you wait long enough to gain experience
 - Build in a "cushion" for unexpected emergencies
 - Schedule the specific date



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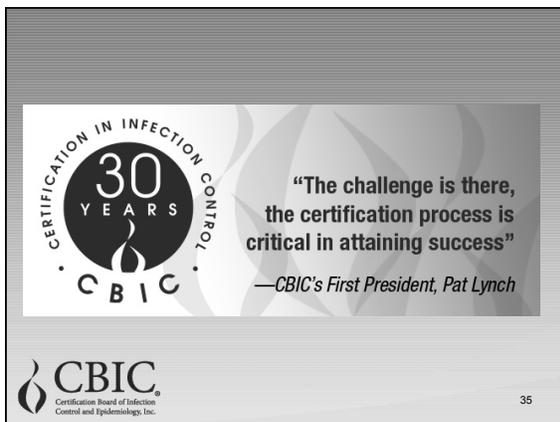
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Questions?

- website: www.cbic.org
- email: info@cbic.org
- phone: 414-918-9796
- Questions about this presentation: info@cbic.org



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Coming Soon

- 24 October **INFECTION CONTROL CONCERNING MRSA IN A LOW-ENDEMIC AREA**
Prof. Bjørg Marit Andersen, Oslo University, Norway
- 30 October (*South Pacific Teleclass*) **PROMOTING HANDWASHING WITH SOAP IN THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY CONTEXT**
Liz McDonald, Melzies School of Health Research, Australia
- 31 October **TEN TIPS FOR INCORPORATING SCIENTIFIC QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INTO EVERYDAY WORKS**
Robert Marton, Miami-Dade County, Florida
- 06 November (*EREE - WHO Teleclass - Europe*) **ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE ISSUES WORLDWIDE AND THE WHO APPROACH TO COMBAT IT**
Dr. Carmen Lucia Pessoa da Silva, World Health Organisation, Geneva

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