

Why Certify? The value of certification in infection prevention and control.

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Objectives

1. Outline certification options from CBIC
2. Discuss the benefits of each certification
3. Describe the value of certification to certificants, the public, and employers

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.

Certificate

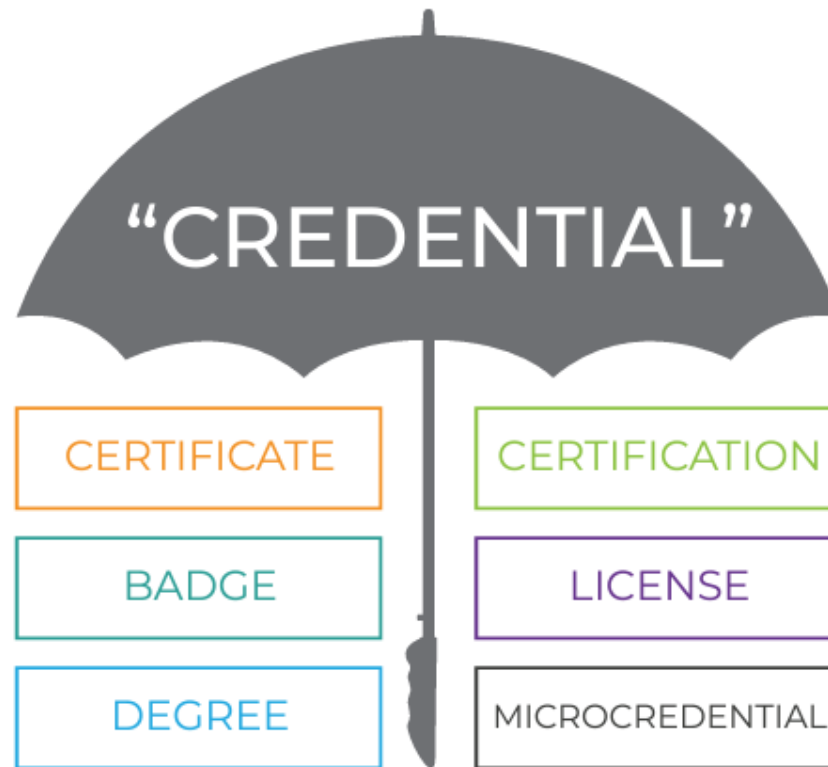


Certification

A certificate is awarded following the completion of a course or series of courses that provides education and training around an intended learning outcome.

A **certification** is awarded following successful completion of a **comprehensive** examination process and provides an independent assessment of the knowledge, skills, and/or competencies required for competent performance of an occupation or professional role.

How often do we rely on someone with a credential?





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

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

El-Saed A, et.al. AJIC 2023; 51:1151-1156



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

Associate – Infection Prevention and Control



a-IPC™ Certification

- 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!

Long-Term Care Certification in Infection Prevention



LTC-CIP Certification

- 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



LTC-CIP® Eligibility Guidelines

- Responsibility for the infection prevention and control programs/activities in a long-term care setting.
- 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.

Advanced Leadership Certification in Infection Prevention



What is the 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

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

The Value of Certification

Value to all certificants:

- Increased recognition by peers and respect of colleagues in the profession
- Improved opportunities for employability and advancement - Greater confidence in their professional competence
- Increased professional trust from employers or the public
- Increased autonomy in the workplace
- Better compensation and career longevity

Content for this statement inspired by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence, 2012, A Look at the Value of Professional Certification
<https://www.credentialingexcellence.org/>

Value to the patient & the public:

- Through increasing competencies, patient outcomes can improve!
- Hospitals with a CIC certified IP participated in infection prevention collaboratives and were more likely to use evidence-based catheter-related bloodstream infection prevention practices.
- Hospitals with a CIC certified IP supported evidence-based antimicrobial stewardship, device-associated health care–associated infection interventions, nurse-initiated urinary catheters discontinuation protocols, and ventilator-associated pneumonia prevention practices.

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

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p334-339

Value to employers & hiring managers:

- Research has shown that organizations value certifications highly when making selection decisions¹.
- When determining a practitioner's commitment to a profession, HR specialists consider knowledge, skill, and performance value factors, as well as the role of certifications. Thus, certification may reduce employee turnover and enhance employee satisfaction.

¹Garza, Adela & Morgeson, Frederick. (2012). Exploring the link between organizational values and human resource certification. *Human Resource Management Review*. 22. 271–278. 10.1016/j.hrmr.2012.06.011.

Ask the experts:




What value has certification brought to your own career?

Ask the experts:




Ask the experts:



I have been working in the field for many years – should I still certify?

Ask the experts:



How can I prepare for certification and how do I know when I am ready?

Contact Information

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