

How to Become Certified Without Becoming Certifiable

Susan Cooper, Southeastern Ontario Infection Control Network

A Webber Training Teleclass


"How to Become Certified Without Becoming Certifiable"

Preparing for the CIC Exam

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Hosted by Paul Webber
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- ### Objectives
- Discuss why certification is important
 - Review eligibility requirements for certification
 - Discuss how to certify & when to re-certify
 - Review the resources recommended to help prepare for certification
 - Introduce you to the certification process
 - Describe recent changes in the examination process
 - Review hints and tips to help with studying

- ### Why Certify?
- Enhance professional status
 - Validates knowledge
 - indicates mastery of a defined body of knowledge
 - Provides an objective measure of competence to employers and the public
 - Personal satisfaction
 - Recognized internationally

- ### Why Certify?
- Allows successful candidate to use "CIC" designation
 - Once certified, certification is valid for a five year period.
- Note: CBIC exam is only way to get CIC.
No other course or program qualifies you to use the designation CIC

- 
- Independent organization
 - Not connected to APIC, CHICA
 - Multidisciplinary, international board of Directors
 - Develops and administers the certification examination process for infection control professionals
 - www.cbic.org

- CBIC's certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).
- Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP) provides testing, measurement and processing services to CBIC.

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CBIC's Mission Statement

“ To improve the quality of healthcare by increasing the number of professionals whose knowledge mastery in infection control and applied epidemiology has been demonstrated by certification.”

The CBIC Board of Directors

- Voluntary, autonomous, multidisciplinary board
- Comprised of
 - nurses from various settings
 - a physician
 - a Medical Technologist/clinical microbiologist
 - a Canadian
 - an educator
 - a consumer member
 - a representative from the APIC Board
 - the CHICA-Canada President
- **All members must be currently certified, including the MD**



Eligibility Requirements

- Must meet **both** the educational requirements and the practice requirements
- Both clearly defined in handbook

Educational requirements

- A current license or registration as a medical technologist, physician, or registered nurse;
- OR**
- A minimum of a baccalaureate degree.
- Education waiver available

Practice Requirement

- Actual employment in the field of infection prevention and control
- Job responsibilities and tasks must include specific activities
- Complete list of activities in handbook or on web site
- No waiver for practice requirements

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Required Activities

Job responsibilities and tasks must include **both** of:

- Analysis and interpretation of data.
- Investigation and surveillance of suspected outbreaks

And at least three of the following:

- Planning, implementation and evaluation of infection prevention and control measures.
- Education of individuals about infection risk, prevention and control.
- The development and revision of infection control policies and procedures.
- The management of infection prevention and control activities.
- The provision of consultation on infection risk assessment, prevention and control strategies.

Recent Major changes

- Elimination of the 2 year practice requirement
- All exams are computer based including SARE
- New Practice Analysis completed in 2009
- Have created a new Content Outline for use in 2010.
- Pre-auditing of candidates

Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP)

- AMP provides testing, measurement and processing services to CBIC
- Psychometric staff analyze our questions
- Located in Kansas
- www.goamp.com



Exam Process

- Administered via computer, at over 140 assessment centers in North America
- No pre-scheduled testing dates.
- Once a candidate is confirmed eligible she/he will receive notice from the testing agency including instructions on how to schedule an examination appointment.

- US candidates may apply to take the exam on-line on CBIC web site
- International candidates (including Canadian) must print off application and mail or fax to AMP for processing

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Applying for the Exam

- A confirmation of eligibility is sent to the candidate within 2 weeks.
- If a confirmation notice is not received within 3 weeks, contact AMP at **913 895-4600**.
- An examination appointment must be scheduled within a **90 day** period. A candidate's eligibility and acceptance of the application is valid for 90 days.

Scheduling Exam

- Can schedule an examination appointment immediately upon being confirmed.
- US candidates may schedule appointment on-line
- International candidates cannot schedule on-line
- A complete list of testing centers is available at www.goamp.com

Initial Certification Exam

- Two versions
- 150 multiple choice questions includes 15 "test" questions
- Developed from a job analysis sent to ICPs in the U.S. and Canada
- Proctored Computer Based Test

Re-Certification

- Must be completed every 5 years
- Can be done by taking initial computer based exam or by Self-achievement recertification exam (SARE)
- SARE now computer based
- Paper exam no longer available

Taking the Exam

- Candidates must have proper identification to gain admission to the assessment center.
- 2 forms of identification, one with a current photograph.
- Must be current and include the candidate's current name and signature.
- Acceptable identification includes a driver's license with photo, current passport, employment ID cards.

Taking the test

- 3 hours to write the computerized exam
- If you would take the exam in the U.S., you receive a "pass" or "fail" notice when the exam is finished.
- Canadian Test Centres- The mark will arrive in the mail 2-3 weeks following the exam.

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Taking the test

- Arrive in plenty of time
- Late comers will be turned away if more than 15 minutes late
- No personal items allowed in room
- No paper is allowed. Scrap paper will be provided and must be returned at the end of the exam
- Non-programmable calculator is allowed

Questions

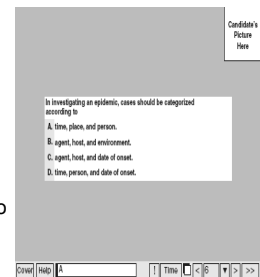
- 150 questions
- All multiple choice
- All questions fit into a category on the Content Outline
- No negative wording, exclusionary words (all, never...) or multiple multiple answers (A+B, A+C, A+B+C, B+D)
- All nation-specific references had been removed

Taking the Exam

- You will be given the opportunity to practice taking an examination on the computer to familiarize yourself with the testing software. The time used is not counted as part of the examination time.
- You will have **3 hours** to complete the exam.

Taking the Exam

- One question present at a time.
- Choices of answer are A,B,C, or D.
- Type in the letter or use mouse to click option.
- May change the answer unlimited times.
- Use the forward arrow(>) to move to the next question.



Examination Content Outline(2009)

- Identification of Infectious Disease processes(27)
- Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation (32)
- Infection Prevention and Control (36)
- Program Management and Communication (17)
- Education (12)
- Infection Control Aspects of Employee Health (11)

Resources



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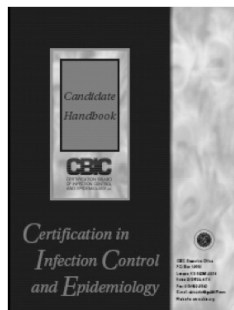
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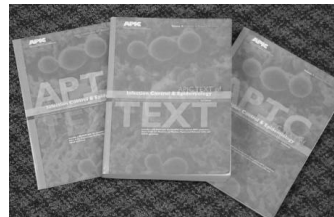
The CBIC Handbook

- A great source of information
- Outlines required knowledge
- Download it from website www.cbic.org
- Read it carefully



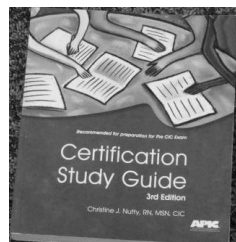
APIC Text

- Primary study tool
- Need access to text
- Now available as on-line resource



APIC Study Guide

- Developed by APIC as a study tool
- **Not** a CBIC product
- Will help identify gaps in knowledge
- Questions not necessarily representative of exam questions



Practice Exam

- Purchase the 70 - question online practice examination available through CBIC at www.cbic.org and complete
- Will give you a feel for the questions and using the computer prior to your exam

APIC On-line Certification Review Course

- This course is intended for individuals with at least two years of infection prevention and control experience and who are seeking certification in infection prevention and control
- Un-limited access
- \$295.00 US
- Not endorsed by CBIC

Other Valuable resources



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Study Group

- Set up a study group
- Helps improve grasp of the material by hearing the answers to questions from fellow students
- Interacting with the other group members can make studying enjoyable and be source of encouragement

Helpful Hints

- Don't write before you are ready
- Exam STILL based on knowledge gained with 2 yrs experience
- If possible, spend some time with an ICP in a different practice setting
- Employer support vital

Exam tips

- Be comfortable with the computer prior to start of 3hr timed period
- Re-read the questions to ensure you understand
- Try to relate the question to your work situation
- Don't change answers! First instinct is usually correct

Helpful Hints

- Book your exam, set out your study schedule and prepare.
- Combination of group and independent review works best for many.
- Don't tell anyone when you have booked your exam...just let them know when you have been successful



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THE NEXT FEW TELECLASSES	
23 Mar. 10	(Free Teleclass) Voices of CHICA Speaker: Directors & Guests of the Community & Hospital Infection Control Association of Canada
25 Mar. 10	(Novice Teleclass) Infections in the Elderly Speaker: Christine Nutty, Infection Advice Inc.
01 Apr. 10	Microbial Control of Electronic Medical Equipment Speaker: Dr. Charles John Palenik, Indiana University School of Dentistry
08 Apr. 10	Simple Precautions – Simplifying Infection Control Speaker: Dr. Jim Hutchinson, Health Care Corporation of St. John's
13 Apr. 10	(Free Teleclass) Improvement in Healthcare Settings Around the World and the "SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands" Initiative Speaker: Claire Kilpatrick, World Health Organization
15 Apr. 10	HPV Infection and Newer Vaccines: An Update Speaker: Dr. Sotirios Tsiodras, University of Athens Medical School, Greece
20 Apr. 10	(Free Teleclass) Voices of the IPS
www.webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php	

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