

**Value of Certification – What’s in it for me?
Sandra Callery, CBIC Board Director
A Webber Training Teleclass**

Certification in Infection Prevention and Control

Value of Certification – What’s in it for me?

Sandra Callery RN MHSc CIC
CBIC Board Director
October 2020

Hosted by Barbara Catt
IPAC Canada President
CBIC Board Member

www.webbertraining.com

October 15, 2020

What Certification means for me...



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CBIC

A voluntary, independent, multidisciplinary Board

Mission: Provide pathways to assess and maintain infection prevention competency

Vision: Healthcare without infection through verifiable competency

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CBIC, ctd.

Established by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC) in 1981; CBIC is an affiliate of APIC

Accredited by the National Commission for
Certifying Agencies (NCCA)

Member of the Institute for Credentialing
Excellence (ICE), formerly National Organization
for Competency Assurance (NOCA)



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CBIC Strategic Priorities

- Maintain and improve the accredited certification program
- Increase recognition/value of certification
- Increase the number of certified IP/ICPs
- Establish/maintain partnerships with APIC, IPAC Canada and other organizations to accomplish goals



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Why Certify?

- Reaffirms that through study and hard work, certificants attain an internationally recognized level of knowledge in the infection prevention and control field
- Supports future knowledge and skills
- Enhances professional credibility and prestige
- Grants personal satisfaction

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The screenshot shows the title page of a research article in the American Journal of Infection Control. The article is titled "Value of certification in infection prevention and control" and is authored by James F. Marx, Sandra Callery, and Roy Boukidjian. The journal is published by Elsevier. The article includes a brief report, a list of keywords (Competency, Compliance, Professional standards, Career Growth, Compensation), and a summary of the study's findings. The study aimed to determine the perceived value of certification in infection prevention and control among professionals and stakeholders. The findings indicate that certification demonstrated professional competency, increased career growth, improved regulatory compliance, and enhanced the practice of infection prevention and control. The article also includes a list of authors' addresses and contact information.

Value of Certification

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

Infection Preventionists (IP) with CIC:

- √ - Higher overall self-assessed competency
- √ - Salaries 25% higher than non-CIC IP
- √ - Scored significantly higher in program performance in the 5 major Infection Prevention and Control program areas including immunization programs and educational offerings
- √ - USA jurisdictional scan showed that 77% of potential employers either required CIC **or** “CIC preferred” in their job postings.

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Why the CIC®?

- Represents commitment to continual improvement of infection prevention and control functions and their contribution to healthcare and patient safety
- Fosters a recognized professional community that helps to reduce infections in healthcare settings
- The *only* accredited certification in infection prevention and control



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Objectives of Certification

- Provides standardized measure of current knowledge required for persons practicing infection prevention and control
- Encourages individual growth and study, thereby promoting professionalism
- Formally recognizes professionals in infection prevention and control who fulfill the requirements for certification and recertification



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Use of the CIC® Credential

- Only individuals who have successfully passed the proctored, initial certification examination and have maintained current certification, through the recertification process* may use the CIC® credential.
- The CIC® credential may be used on resumes, business cards, letterhead, and other professional communications.
- The CIC® credential may not be used for product or other endorsements.

*Recertification is obtained by examination or continuing education.



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The Certification Process

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The CIC® Examination

- Aligned with recognized practice standards for Infection Control and Healthcare Epidemiology
- The *only* standardized measurement of essential knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of infection prevention and control professionals in North America
- Developed from a practice analysis of Infection Prevention and Control Professionals 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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Applying for the CIC® Examination

- Ensure eligibility requirements are met
- Review the *Candidate Handbook* for additional information, applications, and suggested reference materials
- Apply online at www.cbic.org or submit a paper application to the CBIC office
- Pay \$375 examination and application fee



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Taking the Examination

- Proctored examination
- Required for initial certification
- Administered at assessment centers throughout the United States, Canada and other international sites
- 90-day window from application approval to exam completion
- 150 multiple choice questions; 135 of which are scored
- ALL examination questions are the copyrighted property of CBIC



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Eligibility

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Eligibility for Certification

Successful certification indicates competence in the actual practice of infection prevention and control and healthcare epidemiology, and is intended for individuals who are actively accountable for the infection prevention and control program within their current position.



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Eligibility Requirements

- You are accountable for the infection prevention and control activities/program in your setting and this is reflected in your current job description.

AND

- You have a post-secondary degree from an accredited academic institution.

AND



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Eligibility for Certification

- You have had sufficient experience (recommended: two years) in infection prevention and control which includes all three (3) of the following:
 1. Identification of infectious disease processes
 2. Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation
 3. Preventing and controlling the transmission of infectious agents



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Eligibility for Certification

AND at least two (2) of the remaining five (5) components:

- Employee/occupational health
- Management and communication
- Education and research
- Environment of care
- Cleaning, sterilization, disinfection, and asepsis



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Eligibility for Recertification

- Individuals who are currently certified are *automatically eligible* for recertification every 5 years.
- Recertification can be obtained by:
 - Examination
 - Continuing Education (IPUs)



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Associate in Infection Prevention and Control (a-IPC)

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Associate – Infection Prevention and Control (a-IPC) Examination

- The perfect stepping stone to prove a candidate’s foundational knowledge, interest and dedication to the field and provide him or her with the confidence to launch a career in IPC.
- Ideal for a candidate who would like to learn more about infection prevention and control and apply this knowledge to his or her current role or to evolve into another role.



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a-IPC Eligibility for Certification

- Intended for those individuals who do not meet the CIC® eligibility requirements and others interested in IPC
- No experience or job-specific requirements needed to apply
- \$295 application fee



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a-IPC Examination

- Proctored examination
- 100 questions total, 85 questions scored
- 120 minutes to take the exam
- Same content areas tested as the CIC®



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a-IPC Eligibility for Recertification

- The a-IPC is not renewable. Once the three-year period is up, it is expected that candidates will continue on to get their CIC®.



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Preparing for the examination

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Preparing for the Examinations

- Download the respective Content Outline
- Create a study plan
- Review reference material (as listed in the Candidate Handbook), journals and standards, including APIC and IPAC Canada's Practice Standards
- Form a study group amongst your peers
- Visit CBIC's [Exam Prep Resources](#) page



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CIC Examination Content Outline

Content Domain	Items
Identification of Infectious Disease Processes	22
Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation	24
Preventing/Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents	25
Employee/Occupational Health	11
Management and Communications	13
Education and Research	11
Environment of Care	14
Cleaning, Sterilization, Disinfection, Asepsis	15



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a-IPC Examination Content Outline

Content Domain	Items
Identification of Infectious Disease Processes	14
Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation	15
Preventing/Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents	16
Employee/Occupational Health	7
Management and Communications	8
Education and Research	7
Environment of Care	9
Cleaning, Sterilization, Disinfection, Asepsis	9



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Exam References

Primary References:

- *APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology*, 4th ed., Volume I, Volume II and Volume III, APIC, Washington, DC, 2014.**
- Kulich P, Taylor D, eds. *The Infection Preventionist’s Guide to the Lab*, APIC, Washington, DC, 2012.
- Heymann, D., ed. *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, 20th ed., Washington, DC: American Public Health Association; 2015.
- Chachere, Catherine Alesich and Angela S. Hernandez. *Ready Reference for Microbes*, 4th ed., APIC; 2018.



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The Recertification Process

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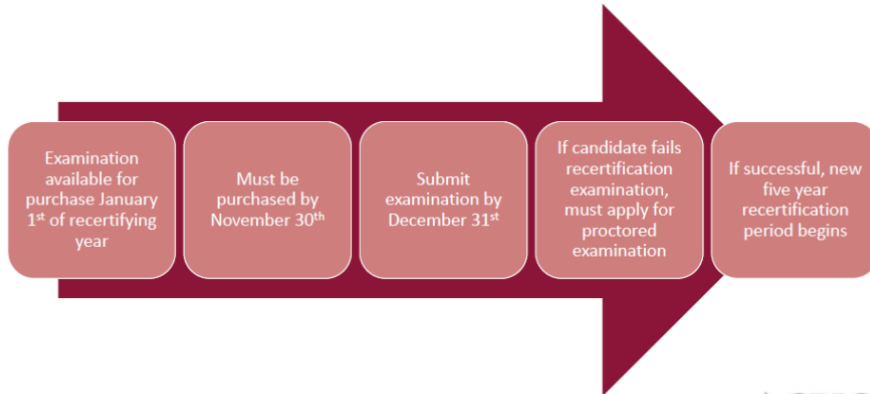
Recertification Examination

- Self-administered (non-proctored), multiple choice, internet-based from any location
- Questions are based on the most current CBIC practice analysis
- The purpose of the recertification examination is to demonstrate continued knowledge mastery in the field of infection prevention and control



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Recertification by Examination Timeline



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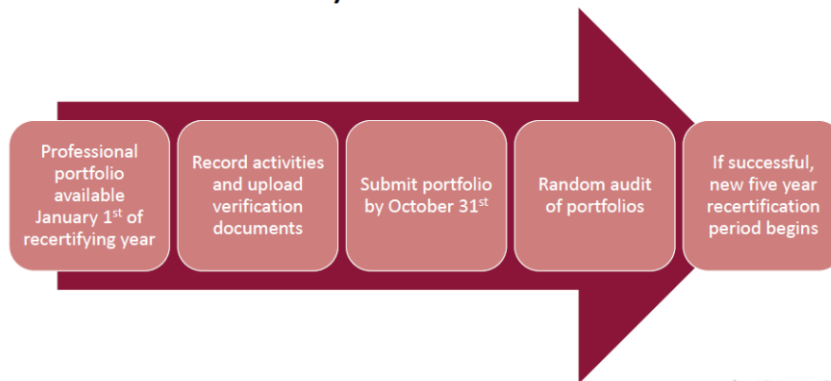
Recertification by Continuing Education

- Domain-specific Infection Prevention Units (IPUs)
- Available to all candidates who hold the CIC® and are up for recertification beginning in 2020
- Candidates can accumulate IPUs at any point during 5-year recertification period from the *submission date* of previous recertification examination or IPUs portfolio
- Candidates must submit professional portfolios to equal a minimum of 40 IPUs



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Recertification by IPUs Timeline



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Resources

CBIC Executive Office:

555 East Wells Street
Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 918-9796
Fax: (414) 276-3349
Web site: www.cbic.org
Email: info@cbic.org

Testing Company:

Prometric

Phone: (800) 278-6222 (toll free
U.S., U.S. Territories, and Canada)
Website: www.prometric.com/cbic



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www.webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php

October 20, 2020

(European Teleclass)

CAN WE HALVE GRAM-NEGATIVE BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS? A DEBATE

Speaker: **Prof. Jon Otter**, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, and **Martin Kiernan**, University of West London

(FREE ... WHO Teleclass - Americas)

CLEAN HOSPITALS: THE NEXT FRONTIER IN INFECTION PREVENTION

Speaker: **Prof. Didier Pittet**, University of Geneva Hospitals, **Prof. Pierre Parneix**, CPIAS Nouvelle Aquitaine, France

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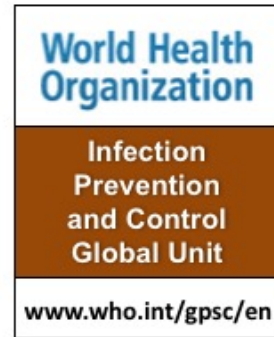
Sponsored by the WHO Infection Prevention & Control Global Unit



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