



Demystifying the CIC Certification Exam
Roy Boukidjian and Linda Goss, Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.
Teleclass broadcast sponsored by GOJO (www.gojo.com)

**Demystifying the CIC®
Certification Examination**

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 **CBIC**
Certification Board of Infection
Control and Epidemiology, Inc.

www.webbertraining.com November 5, 2015

Objectives

1. Discuss eligibility criteria and required supporting documents
2. Provide insight to the test development process
3. Provide reasoning behind CBIC policies
4. Dispel some of the common misconceptions around the certification and recertification exam

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How do I get Started in Infection Prevention and Control?

- Contact APIC or IPAC Canada
 - APIC: Road Map to becoming an IP
 - www.apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/Periodical_Images/The_novice_roadmap_PS1501.pdf
 - IPAC Canada: www.ipac-canada.org
- Take courses
- The CIC® exam measures competency; not a source of entry into the field



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How is the exam developed?

- Test Committee
 - Item Writing Subcommittee
 - Items = Questions
 - Item Review Subcommittee
 - Form Review Subcommittee
 - Form = Test as a whole



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How is the exam developed?

- Test Committee
 - Item Writing
 - Items = Questions on the exam
 - Subcommittee of Board and non-Board members who are subject matter experts (SMEs) write new questions in each of the domain areas
 - New items are written for the initial exam each year and every two years for the recertification examination
 - New items are pre-tested (in unscored positions) on examination forms the subsequent year to ensure accuracy and validity



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How is the exam developed?

- Test Committee
 - Item Review
 - After items are written, they are reviewed for content accuracy, writing style and bias by a second subcommittee
 - Form Review
 - Form = Exam as a whole
 - Third subcommittee reviews the form as a whole before it is implemented at testing centers and online



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How is the exam developed?

- Determining the Cut Score
 - After a practice analysis that results in an updated examination content outline, CBIC determines a new base passing level for the exam.
 - After the base score for the “minimally competent practitioner” is established, all subsequent exam forms that use the same exam content outline go through an equating process to ensure that their cut score reflects an equal level of difficulty with the base form.



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How is the exam developed?

- 90 Day Waiting Period
 - Each year Prometric cycles through 2 main forms each with 2 sub forms
 - Waiting period ensures that no one takes the same form twice
 - Part of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) standards
 - Allows candidates time to prepare to re-test



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What is included in the fee for the exam?

- Initial certification examination: \$350
- Recertification examination: \$325
- What this includes:
 - The exam itself; only one attempt
 - If you receive a passing score...
 - You will also receive a certificate in the mail and
 - Use of the CIC® credential



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Who is eligible to take the exam?

- Eligibility requirements on the CBIC website:
 - www.cbic.org/certification/candidate-handbook/eligibility-requirements
- Some IP positions require certification, how do I find an IP position without the CIC credential?
 - Take courses, show your interest in the field
 - Some places will hire if you commit to taking the exam a couple years in



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Who is eligible to take the exam?

- Why do I have to be working in an IP position to be eligible?
 - Exam is geared towards the two-year practitioner
 - Most successful candidates according to Practice Analysis
 - Application of knowledge and experience gained in a clinical practice setting is essential
 - Must be accountable for infection prevention and control activities/program in your setting
 - Core activities for everyone:
 - Identification of infectious disease processes
 - Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation
 - Preventing and controlling the transmission of infectious agents



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Who is eligible to take the exam?

- Why does **previous** experience in infection control not count for eligibility?
 - Must be **currently** working in infection prevention to take exam
 - Previous experience will most certainly aid the candidate in achieving their CIC® certification
 - The purpose of the exam is to show competency not to gain entry into the IP field



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Who is eligible to take the exam?

- What can interns, fellows and residents do to be eligible take the exam?
 - Need a degree of at least an Associate's (or diploma equivalent in Canada)
 - Gain more experience in infection prevention specifically
- Why do you have to have an Associate's degree or higher to be eligible?
 - Most successful candidates have an Associate's degree or higher according to Practice Analysis



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Besides meeting the eligibility requirements, what do I need to apply?

- Completed application; online or paper form
 - Name on the form should be the exact name and spelling as on your current photo ID
- Attestations Statement
 - Signed by current supervisor
 - Candidates name must be printed on here
- CV/Resume
 - Must be up-to-date



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Besides meeting the eligibility requirements, what do I need to apply?

- Official Job Description
 - From current employer giving the position, general duties, purpose, responsibilities, etc. (not a letter from supervisor)
 - Will most likely come from the HR department
- Proof of degree
 - Official or unofficial transcript or copy of the degree will suffice



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Are you aware of another IP certification for which I would meet the requirements?

- There are other certifications outside of North America
- Within the United States and Canada we are the only IP certification that we are aware of
 - Quebec – designation of Clinical Nurse Specialist in Infection Prevention and Control is also recognized by IPAC Canada



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I've heard that the exam is an "American" exam and not suitable (relevant) for anyone outside of the U.S. Is this true?

- Currently only offered in English
 - Will be offered in French Canadian in Canada for 2016
- Exam is based on standardized infection prevention practices
- It is not based on U.S. regulations
- Certificants in:
 - American Samoa
 - Bermuda
 - Canada
 - Egypt
 - India
 - Japan
 - Lebanon
 - New Zealand
 - Qatar
 - Saudi Arabia
 - United Arab Emirates
 - United Kingdom
 - And 20 other countries!



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Do you have to be a nurse or a med tech to sit for the exam?

- CBIC recently updated its eligibility requirements:
www.cbic.org/certification/candidate-handbook/eligibility-requirements
- Certificants by practice setting:
 - Acute Care/Hospital
 - Ambulatory Care
 - EMS
 - Veteran's Affairs
 - Behavior Care
 - Home Care
 - Long-term care
 - Self-Employed



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Is the recertification examination harder than the initial certification examination?

- No
- Both the initial certification examination and the recertification examination are based on the most current practice analysis
- Both content outlines are identical
- The recertification examination enables the infection prevention and control professional to use the exam as an educational opportunity
- SARE Myth Busters:
www.cbic.org/UserFiles/file/SARE-myth-busters-v1.pdf



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Why can't I recertify at a testing center anymore?

- Creates uniformity by only allowing one standard for recertification
- Recertification provides an opportunity to assess one's growing knowledge as recertifiers are more advanced practitioners and have demonstrated competence by passing the initial exam.
- If you fail the recertification examination, you may retest at a testing center with the initial certification examination



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For More Information...

- Past Webber Teleclasses:
 - CBIC Practice Analysis – What is it and Why is it Critical to the test?
www.webbertraining.com/recordingslibraryc4.php (Nov. 6, 2014)
 - The Road to CIC® Certification: Getting Started and Working Toward Success
www.webbertraining.com/recordingslibraryc4.php (Oct. 17, 2013)
- CBIC Webinars:
 - How to Prepare for the CIC® Examination
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lmd3HnDZnBg&feature=youtu.be
- CBIC Website:
www.cbic.org



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Thank You!

For more information on the CIC® certification, please contact CBIC at 414.918.9796 or info@cbic.org


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November 12 **SALMONELLA - TRENDS, PREVALENCE AND CONTROL**
Prof. Keith Warriner, Guelph University, Canada

November 17 *(FREE British Teleclass ... Denver Russell Memorial Teleclass Lecture)*
THE ROLE OF WATER AS A VECTOR IN THE TRANSMISSION OF INFECTIONS IN HOSPITALS
Dr. Jimmy Walker, Public Health England, Biosafety Unit

November 19 **CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE INFECTION IN RURAL HOSPITALS**
Dr. Nasia Safdar, University of Wisconsin

December 3 *(FREE Teleclass)*
HIV TREATMENT AS PREVENTION: THE KEY TO AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION
Prof. Julio S. G. Montaner, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

December 10 **RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT GRAM-NEGATIVE RODS (CRE & FRIENDS)**

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