

# Certification in Infection Prevention and Control (CIC<sup>®</sup>)

*Certification is Commitment*

# What is CBIC?

- Voluntary, independent, multidisciplinary Board
- **Mission:** To protect the public through the development, administration and promotion of an accredited certification in infection prevention & control. CBIC maintains and promotes professional certification of the highest quality through the accomplishment of key objectives.

# What is CBIC?

- 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)

# 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

# Use of the CIC<sup>®</sup> Credential

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

\*CICs may maintain certification through the proctored examination, only if they receive a failing score on the recertification exam.

# Methods of Certification & Recertification

## Initial certification:

Proctored initial certification examination

## Recertification:

Self-paced, open book recertification examination\*

*\*Proctored certification examination if candidate fails recertification examination*

# Certification Examinations

- Comprehensive, job-related, objective tests
- 150 multiple choice questions; 135 of which are scored
- 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
- Recognized by TJC as a measure of competence

# Certification Examinations

- 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
- ALL examination questions are the copyrighted property of CBIC



# Initial 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

# 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

# Recertification Examination

- Unlimited access before submission
- Must be done alone; do not discuss with colleagues
- Deadline to purchase: December 1
- Deadline to submit: 11:59pm GMT/6:59pm EST on December 31\* (same calendar year)

*\*CBIC strongly recommends submitting the SARE no later than December 30<sup>th</sup> to be sure that the exam is submitted successfully in time.*

# 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.

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

**AND**

# Eligibility for Certification

You have a post-secondary degree (e.g. associates'\* or baccalaureate degree) from an accredited academic facility.

*\*Equivalent to Canadian two- or three-year diploma from an accredited academic facility*

**AND**

You have had sufficient experience (recommended: two years) in infection prevention and control which includes all three (3) of the following:

- Identification of infectious disease processes
- Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation
- Preventing and controlling the transmission of infectious agents

# 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

# Eligibility for Certification

- Candidates who are self-employed must submit additional documentation (See ***Candidate Handbook*** on our website for details)

# Eligibility for Recertification

- Individuals who are currently certified are ***automatically eligible*** for recertification every 5 years.

# Lapsed Certification

If you fail to recertify when you are due and later decide that you would like to, you:

1. Must meet the criteria for *initial* certification
2. May no longer be eligible if you have changed positions to one where infection control is **NOT** your main area of responsibility



# Preparing for the Examination

## Current 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

# Preparing for the Examination

- 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
- Listen to our webinars
  - "Road to CIC Certification"  
<https://webbertraining.com/recordingslibraryc4.php>
  - "How to Prepare for the CIC exam"  
<http://www.cbic.org/certification/media>
- Contact your local APIC or IPAC Canada chapter for support.

# 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*, 19th ed., Washington, DC: American Public Health Association; 2008.
- Brooks, Kathy. *Ready Reference for Microbes*, 3rd ed., APIC; 2012.

# Exam References

## Secondary References:

- Current Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- Current guidelines, standards, and recommendations from CDC, APIC, SHEA, and Public Health Agency of Canada.
- Pickering, Larry K, ed. *Red Book*, 29th ed., Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2012.

*\*\*The 2015 **recertification** examination was written using the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Volumes I and II.*

# Resources

Check CBIC Web site [www.cbic.org](http://www.cbic.org) for:

- ***Online Candidate Handbook*** (all application and order forms for the examinations are included)
- Background information on CBIC and the certification process



# Resources

## **Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)**

1275 K St., NW  
Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 789-1890

[www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org)

## **Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada)**

PO Box 46125 RPO Westdale  
Winnipeg, MB R3R 3S3  
(866) 999-7111

[www.ipac-canada.org](http://www.ipac-canada.org)

# 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](http://www.cbic.org)

## Testing Company:

### Prometric

Phone: (800) 278-6222 (toll free U.S., U.S. Territories, and Canada)

Website:

[www.prometric.com/cbic](http://www.prometric.com/cbic)