

Certification in Infection Prevention and Control CIC®

Certification is Commitment

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CBIC and the CIC[®] Exam

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)

Board Composition

(Minimal Requirements per Bylaws, 2014)

- Medical Doctor: (1)
- Medical Technologist: (1)
- RNs: (3)
- Canadian Infection Preventionist (IP): (1)
- IP non-hospital setting: (1)
- IP long-term care setting: (1)
- IP 4 years or less experience as IP (1)
- Administrator* of healthcare provider (1)
- Public Consumer* (1)

* All but consumer director & administrator must be CIC®

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

Why Certify?

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

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
- Moves the profession forward!

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

Use of the CIC[®] Credential

Only individuals who have successfully passed the proctored, computer-based test (CBT) and have maintained current certification, through either the CBT or Self-Achievement Recertification Examination (SARE), 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.

The Certification Process

Applying for the Certification 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 (available in the ***Candidate Handbook***) to the CBIC office

Methods of Certification and Recertification

Initial certification:

1. Proctored computer-based test (CBT)

Recertification:

1. Proctored computer-based test (CBT)

OR

2. Self-Achievement Recertification Exam (SARE)

Certification Examinations

- Comprehensive, job-related, objective tests
- 150 multiple choice questions; 15 questions under evaluation, not included in scoring
- 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

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

Computer-Based Test (CBT)

- Proctored examination
- Required for initial certification
- Administered at assessment centers throughout the United States, Canada and other international sites
- Used for initial certification or recertification
- 90 day window from application approval to exam completion

Self-Achievement Recertification Examination (SARE)

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

Self-Achievement Recertification Examination (SARE)

- Unlimited access before submission
- Must be done alone; do not discuss with colleagues
- Deadline to purchase: December 1
- Deadline to submit: 11:59pm GMT/7:59 EST on December 31* (same calendar year)

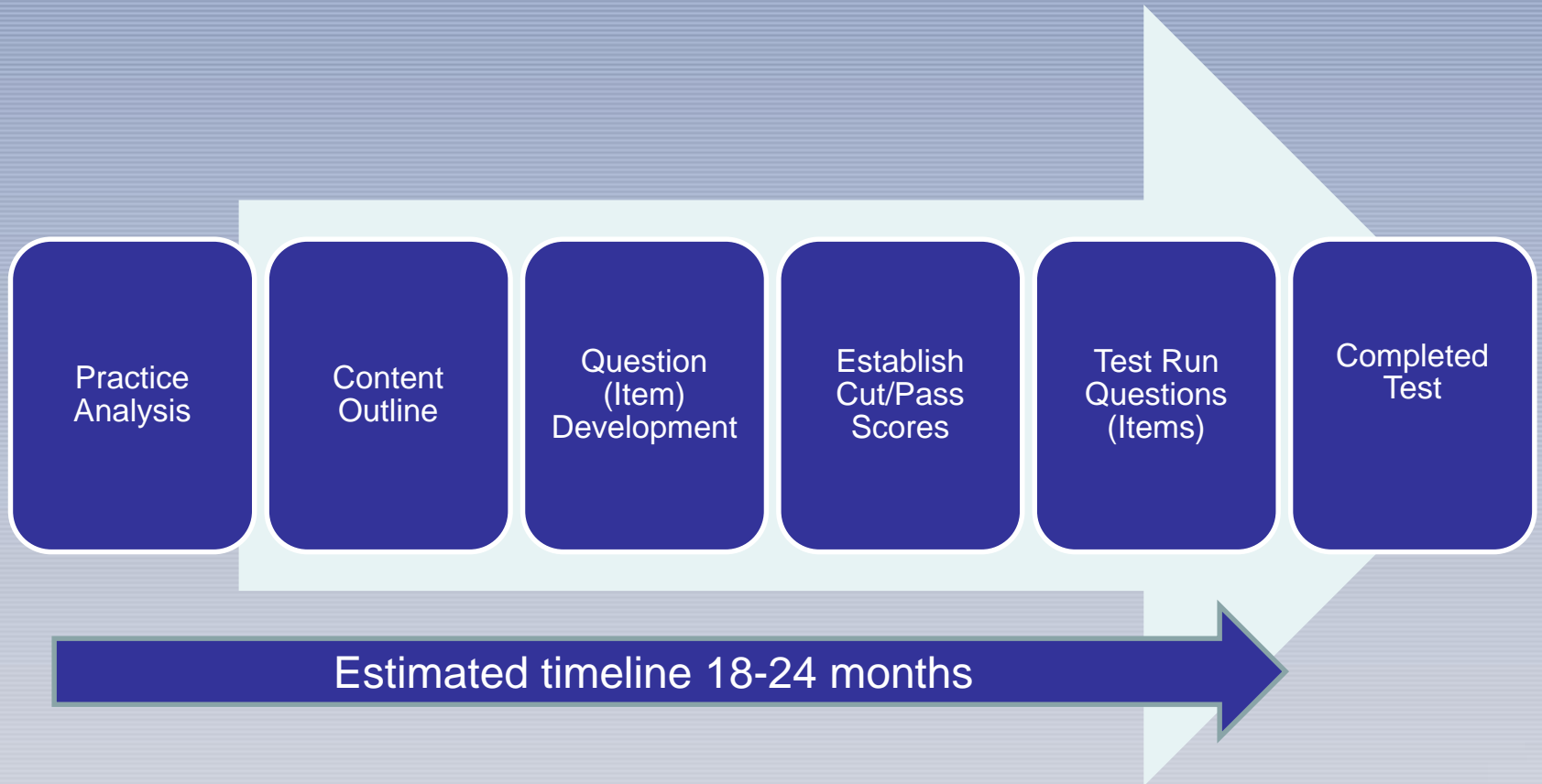
**CBIC strongly recommends submitting the SARE no later than December 30th to be sure that everything is submitted successfully in time.*



The sooner you purchase the exam, the more time you have to complete it!

The Making of the CIC[®] Exam

Developing the Test



Developing The Test

Practice Analysis

- Survey
 - Development
 - Distribution
 - Analysis
- ~ q 5 years
- 2009 (27.5% response rate)

Content Outline

- Revise content specifications
- Based upon findings of practice analysis survey

Question (Item) Development

- Submission new question (item) with references
- Reviewed & edited by Test Committee
- Test run for stats

Cut (Pass Scores)

- Passing scores calculated to account for question (item) difficulty and differences between examinations

Test

- Equated, validated
- Checked for similarities & cues
- 4 Exams
 - 2 CBT
 - 2 SARE
- Analysis

Profile of an Infection Control Professional (2014)

Based on responses from CBIC's 2014 Practice Analysis survey. The complete practice analysis summary can be found on the CBIC website at <http://www.cbic.org/UserFiles/file/AJICPAArticleJuly2015.pdf>



Validity

Validity of the Certification Examinations

- Exams based on practice analysis to ensure content is current, practice-related and representative of the responsibilities of infection prevention and control professionals
- The practice analysis, examination development and process adhere to nationally recognized standards for validation, educational and psychological testing

Validity of the Certification Examinations

- Developed under the guidance of a psychometrician and test development specialist from an independent testing agency. The testing agency oversees scoring of the examination
- Each test question undergoes both expert and statistical scrutiny before use

Validity of the Certification Examinations

- Passing scores are determined for each version of the test to ensure equivalency between the different forms at all times
- Acknowledged by The Joint Commission as an important element of an effective infection control program

Confidentiality of Examination Scores

- Both CBIC and Prometric (testing company) maintain complete confidentiality of individual test scores
- Only summary statistics are provided at open forums and published periodically in the infection prevention and control literature

Eligibility

How to Qualify

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



While there is no specific time requirement that defines “sufficient experience”; the certification examination is geared toward the professional who has had at least two years of full-time experience in infection prevention and control.

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 certify when you are due and later decide that you would like to,

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

How to Prepare for the Exam

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.

Test Questions

Each content area includes test questions that target different cognitive levels.

- a) **Recall** (simple recall or recognition)
- b) **Application** (comprehension, interpretation or manipulation of concepts/information)
- c) **Analysis** (integration of a variety of concepts, problem solving, making judgments)

Sample Question

Recall

In investigating an epidemic, cases should be categorized according to:

- A. time, place, and person.
- B. agent, host, and environment.
- C. agent, host, and date of onset.
- D. time, person, and date of onset.

Sample Question

Application

The lengths of stay for patients with nosocomial infections are 12, 12, 12, 13, 15, 15, 16, 20, and 30 days. What is the median length of stay?

- A. 12 days
- B. 15 days
- C. 16 days
- D. 25 days

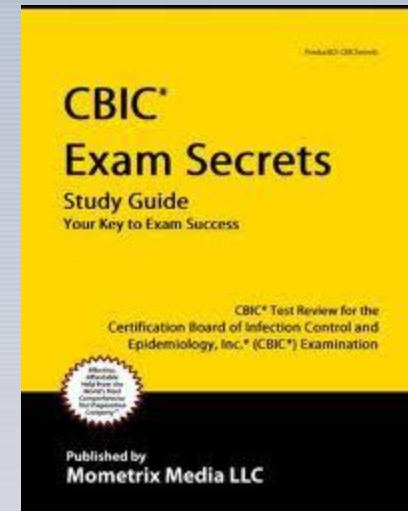
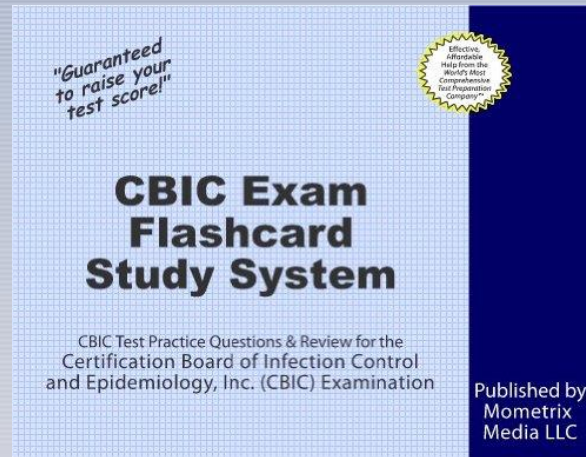
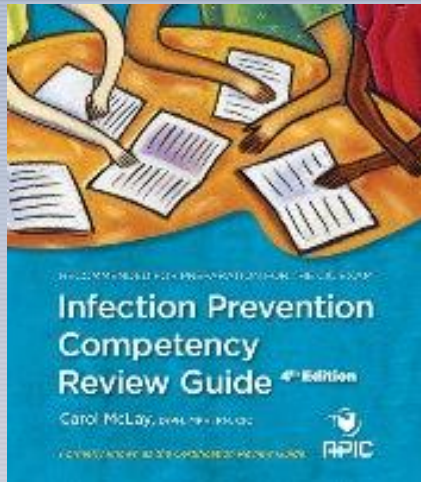
Sample Question

Analysis

The risk of healthcare associated urinary tract infections in spinal cord injury patients is BEST reduced by:

- A. prophylactic antibiotics.
- B. bladder instillation of antiseptic.
- C. intermittent catheterization.
- D. placement of all patients with urinary catheters in the same area.

CBIC does not produce nor endorse products or materials related to preparing for the certification examination.



Exam Resources

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 SARE examination was written using the 3rd edition of the APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Volumes I and II.*

Resources

- Check CBIC Web site 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

- **APIC**
1275 K St., NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC,
20005-4006
(202) 789-1890
www.apic.org
- **Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada)**
PO Box 46125 RPO
Westdale
Winnipeg MB
Canada
R3R 3S3
(866) 999-7111
www.ipac-canada.org

Resources

- CBIC Executive Offices:

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

- Testing Company:

Prometric

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

Website:

www.prometric.com/cbic