

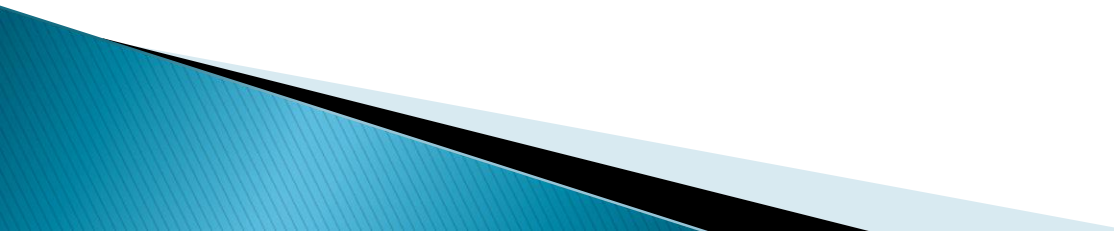
# CIC: Getting and Staying Certified in Infection Control

Certification Board of Infection Control &  
Epidemiology, Inc.

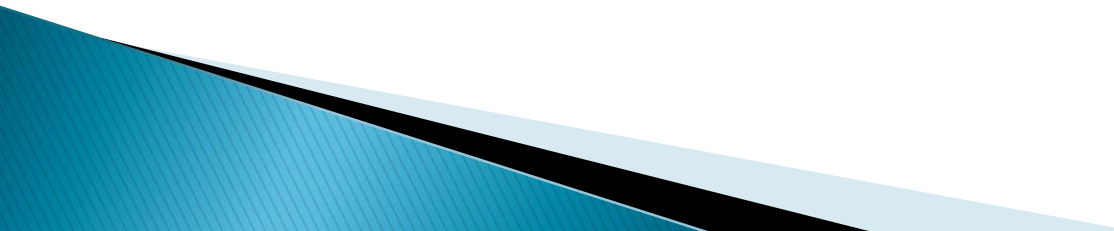
Presented by Anne Nolan, RN, MSN, CIC



# Objectives

- ▶ Define what is CIC and why is it important
  - ▶ Review the a-IPC option
  - ▶ Review legislation that may mandate CIC
  - ▶ Discuss Renewal process for CIC
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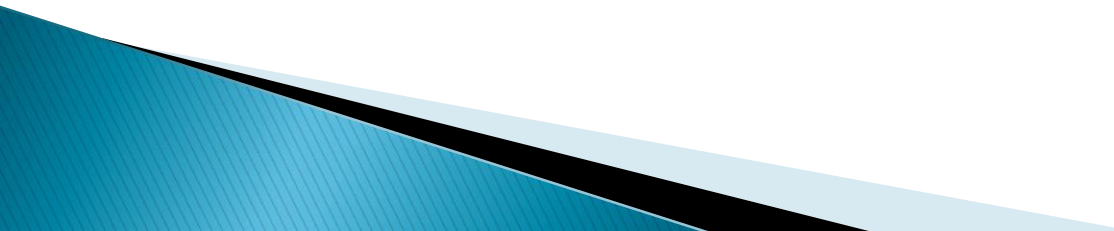
# CIC

- ▶ A growing number of employers expect employees to have or be working toward certification in Infection Control
  - ▶ CIC credential identifies healthcare professionals who have shown mastery in knowledge in infection control by passing the certification exam
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# CIC

- ▶ APIC Strategic Plan 2020 set a goal for IPs
  - The majority of IPs will demonstrate core competency in infection prevention and control through **board certification**
  - The role and value of IPs will be strengthened through greater adoption of a standardized credential
  - According to CBIC, there are 7,703 CIC (April 17, 2020)
    - Pass rate initial exam 69.4%
    - Pass rate for recert 87.6%

# Why CIC?

- ▶ Studies show that hospitals with CIC IPs have lower rates of MRSA BSI, CLABSI (apic.org)
  - ▶ 30% of employers required CIC to apply or maintain employment (AJIC, 2019)
  - ▶ CIC professionals earn 25% higher salary (AJIC, 2019)
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# CIC eligibility

- ▶ Proof of post-secondary degree from an accredited academic institution (an Associate's degree or higher)
  - Or three-year diploma RN degree (accepted through December 31, 2020 only)
- ▶ Currently accountable for infection prevention activities / program reflected in job description
  - Provide official job description on employer letterhead
- ▶ Currently responsible for the following:
  - ID of infectious disease processes
  - Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation
  - Prevention and controlling the transmission of infectious agents

# CIC eligibility

- ▶ Actively perform at least **two** of the following:
  - Employee/occupational health
  - Management and communication
  - Education and research
  - Environment of Care
  - Cleaning, sterilization, disinfection and asepsis

# Steps for Certification

- ▶ Review CIC eligibility requirements
- ▶ STUDY!
- ▶ Submit application with supporting documents and application fee
- ▶ Schedule and take exam in 90 days
  - Nearby testing centers in Concord, Portsmouth, Portland ME, Lowell MA
- ▶ When successful, valid for 5 years
  - Ex. If obtain 07/6/2020–valid until 12/31/2025



# a-IPC

- ▶ The Associate – Infection Prevention and Control: Entry-level certification examination is a measure of basic infection prevention competency.
- ▶ It is intended for the novice IP and for those interested in pursuing careers in infection prevention and control.
- ▶ It is also intended for those who do not yet meet the eligibility requirements for the CIC®.
- ▶ The a-IPC is an objective, multiple-choice examination consisting of 100 questions.
  - 85 of these questions are used in computing the score.

# a-IPC continued

- ▶ There are no eligibility requirements necessary to apply for the a-IPC
- ▶ Offered at testing centers
- ▶ Valid for three years
- ▶ Is not renewable
  - Once the three-year period is up, it is expected that candidates will become CIC.

# Legislation

- ▶ **CMS 482.42(a):**
  - The hospital must demonstrate that an individual who is qualified through education, training, experience, or **certification** in infection prevention and control is appointed to oversee the program
- ▶ **Colorado:** take certification exam within 6 months after becoming eligible
- ▶ **Nevada:** medical facility with > 175 beds must have CIC IP Officer
- ▶ **New Jersey:** IP professionals shall have education and training and shall be certified within 5 years of beginning practice (and maintain CIC)

# Recertification

- ▶ Recert is required every 5 years in order to maintain CIC

# Recert by Examination

- ▶ Internet based examination must be purchased by November 30 and completed by December 31
  - COVID extension—must be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>
- ▶ Recert candidates who do not pass the exam cannot retake the recert exam, but can apply to recert by initial certification exam (at a testing site)

# Recertification by Continuing Education

40 IPUS needed

Domains refer to 8 categories of the examination

- ▶ 1. Investigation of infectious disease process
- ▶ 2. Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation
- ▶ 3. Prevention and control of the transmission of infectious agents
- ▶ 4. Employee or occupational health
- ▶ 5. Management and communication
- ▶ 6. Education and research
- ▶ 7. Environment of care
- ▶ 8. Cleaning, sterilization, disinfection, and asepsis

Continuing ed. must include 6 of the 8 domains

**Hint: National conference covers all 8 domains!**

# Recertification by Continuing Education

On-line, paper or live format from <b>approved or accredited</b> source that provides continuing ed. credits	1 hour=1 IPU per activity hr. Ex. APIC, CDC, SHEA, 3M
Attendance at approved/accredited organizational offering (multi day or single day) *Must be >5.5 contact hours or use live format from above	10 IPU Ex. APIC/APIC NE
National (or international) Conferences	10 IPU Ex. (APIC, SHEA, IDSA)
Academic education: enrolled in accredited program that offer specific education that would advance profession	10 IPU (max)
Publications: Published in peer reviewed journal	5 IPU per publication

# Recertification by Continuing Education

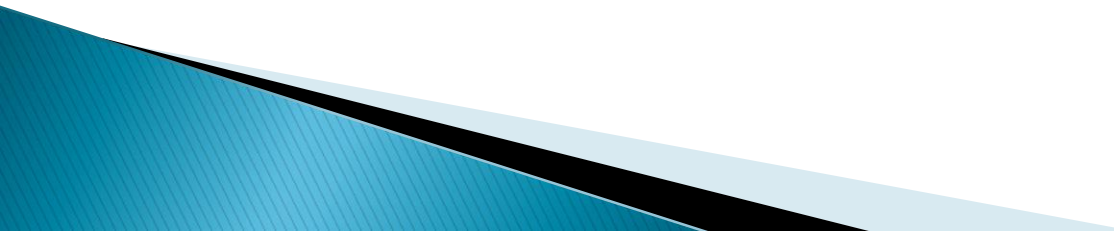
Presentation: Chapter, state or national conference. Deliver webinar or present poster	2 IPU per 1 hour presentation/poster
Participation on local/state/national local IP organization as committee member/voluntary leadership	5 IPU per term per role
Teaching	1 IPU per hour of instruction (max 5 IPU)
Research	5 IPU per research activity



# Keeping track of IPU's

- ▶ Begin accumulating IPU's as soon as you certify/recertify
- ▶ Be sure on-line courses are **accredited or approved**
  - NH BON requires contact hours rather than CEU, include documentation of contact hour requirements in supporting documentation

# Keeping track of IPU's

- ▶ Keep certificates of attendance/completion
  - ▶ Obtain copies of brochures/flyer/syllabus and obtain letter (on letterhead) with your name, the name of the webinar or presentation, the date and length of the webinar or presentation, and a synopsis of webinar or presentation focus
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# Keeping track of IPU's

- ▶ Obtain appointment letter on organization letterhead (separate for each role held) including name, role, dates of term and a signature from committee chair
  - Term must be completed within recert period
  - Example: if recertifying in 2021, term on NHICEP as Board member 2021–2022 would not qualify



## Record Keeping Form for Infection Prevention Units (IPUs)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Recertification Period: \_\_\_\_\_

- This document is intended to serve as a tool to help you keep track of your activities over your 5-year recertification period. During your recertification year, you must still submit all supporting documentation and list out activities and their corresponding domain(s) in the interactive CBIC online portfolio.
- Refer to the CBIC website for a list of eligible activities, a complete breakdown of how infection prevention units (IPUs) are assigned, and the verification needed for each activity.
- A total of 40 IPUs must be earned during the recertification period.
- IPUs must cover at least six domains. "Domains" refers to the eight categories of the examination: identification of infectious disease processes (1), surveillance and epidemiologic investigation (2), prevention and control of the transmission of infectious agents (3), employee or occupational health (4), management and communication (5), education and research (6), environment of care (7), and cleaning, sterilization, disinfection, and asepsis (8).

Date(s)	Activity	Sponsoring Organization	Verification of Participation	Domain(s) Covered	IPUs Earned
				<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8	
				<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8	
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				<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8	

Please submit all supporting documents and verification when you submit your portfolio online. Activities without documentation will not be accepted. If you have any questions, please call (414)918-9796 or email [info@cbic.org](mailto:info@cbic.org).

# Recertification Portfolio

- ▶ Access professional portfolio on CBIC website on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> of recertifying year
- ▶ Begin recording activities in professional portfolio
- ▶ Upload verification documents
  - Letters, bylaws, certificate of attendance, brochures
- ▶ Submit portfolio by October 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Extended to Jan 31, 2021
  - Allow 30 business days for review of portfolio

# Celebrate

- ▶ Share certification with manager/leader
  - Demonstrates commitment
  - Potential reimbursement
- ▶ Share with marketing
- ▶ Post certification in your office!



# References

- ▶ APIC: <https://apic.org/education-and-events/certification/>
- ▶ Capparell, R., Hailpern, N., Tomlinson, L. (Winter 2017) *Prevention strategist*
- ▶ CBIC: <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC.htm>  
phone (414) 918-9796

# Questions



Thank you

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