

# Certification UPDATE

Keeping BONENT Members Informed

## Wesley Watkins 2009 Scholarship Recipients Awarded

The Wesley Watkins Scholarship is awarded annually to as many as four BONENT members in good standing: two international and two U.S. members. Competition is based on a winning essay written by the applicants.

### Congratulations to our 2009 winners:

**Gillian Reilly, RN, CHN (right)**  
**Cheryl Bryan-Dawkins, RN, CHN**



Below is the essay from our first recipient Gillian Reilly, of Christchurch, New Zealand. Our second scholarship recipient's essay will appear in our winter issue.

### What is the impact of your country's government regulations on patient education and safety in your facility?

The New Zealand government have encouraged the development of a model of care where patient education and safety is central.

In New Zealand the Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for the health and disability system. District Health Boards (DHB) are responsible for providing and funding health and disability services in their districts. This structure is legislated in The New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act (2000). DHB's statutory obligations include improving, promoting and protecting the health of communities and individuals within those communities. DHB's are able to allocate funding to fulfil these obligations. All New Zealand residents are entitled to free care while in our facility.

Our facility comes under the auspices of the Canterbury DHB. It comprises an acute dialysis unit and a home dialysis training centre. The reaffirmed commitment to home dialysis has resulted in the provision of a new purpose built home dialysis training centre that incorporates areas for pre-dialysis education, group education and individual patient rooms for teaching haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. The aim is for all patients to have home therapy by either modality. Patients take as long as necessary to train and if they are unsuccessful, a dialysis provider, such as a family member, may be trained so that the patient is still able to dialyse safely at home. The government regulations allow for the DHB to allocate funds for this model of care. They provide back up through staff education and providing adequate funding and facilities to ensure its success. CDHB have recently held a review of the dialysis services which acknowledged the need for increased patient education hours including pre-dialysis education.

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003) provides for a framework for the regulation of health practitioners in order

to protect the public. This lays out requirements to ensure that all medical and nursing staff remain competent and safe to practise.

An important part of the promotion of patient education and safety is the education of the Health Carers. The New Zealand Health Strategy (Ministry of Health 2000) identified the need for increased support of health professionals in training. From this the Clinical Training Agency (CTA) was formed with the mandate to fund post entry nursing training. Through the CTA, staff are able to access fully funded postgraduate education. The DHB allocates funds for education and through this staff are able to attend conferences, take study leave and sit BONENT exams.

Under the Injury Prevention Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (2001) the Accident Compensation Commission provides no-fault personal injury (including treatment injury) cover for all residents and visitors to New Zealand. The result of this system of no-blame is a transparent health system where patient safety is paramount and system faults can be identified and reviewed.

To reinforce a safe environment the DHB's have a robust complaints procedure and patient advocacy service. On a national level, the Health and Disability Commissioner is an independent agency set up by the government to promote and protect the rights of consumers who use health and disability services. Leaflets are required to be displayed in our facility on how patients can access this complaints procedure.

Our country's government regulations have a powerful impact on patient education and safety. This is achieved through promoting staff education and competence, through allocation of adequate funds for prioritising patient education and providing a structure that ensures patient safety.

**Dialysis Certification DEADLINE: April 14, 2010**

Are all of your employees certified?

Choose From



Paper & Pencil Exam

- OR -



Computer Based Test

Get the New & Updated Candidate Handbook and Exam Application at [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org)

# Certification UPDATE

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Constantly Improving & Expanding

#### Many Helping PCTs to be Certified by April 2010!

As everyone knows by now, required national certifications for patient care technicians, which BONENT has worked toward since our inception, becomes a reality in April 2010. As part of dialysis facility certification, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) will require dialysis facilities document that all of their current PCTs are certified by valid national or regional exams, and that new technicians be certified within 18 months of the beginning of their employment. They, also, need to be able to show on-going certification. As you can imagine, the demand for the BONENT exams is up more than 3-fold in the past year.



**RJ Picciano**  
President

Many technicians are already certified, some because they work in States such as Ohio, Virginia, Missouri and Oregon that have required certification for a number of years. But, many technicians who have been in the field for a number of years have never been certified. In a timely development, in October 2008, BONENT launched our "computer based testing" (CBT) program. After a few initial tweaks, CBT was up and running and if trends continue CBT will match the standard paper and pencil exams (PPE) in popularity in the next few months. We have increased the number of PPE & CBT exam sites to accommodate the increased number of people still needing to be certified. As you can imagine, this has kept the BONENT Executive Office in Washington, DC extremely busy. But, they have done a wonderful job to keep up the high standards of BONENT! And I would like to thank all of the BONENT Regional Reps and all of the BONENT-certified members that have helped out by hosting more exam sites and by communicating the BONENT message.

#### PD Nurses Get Certified with New CPDN Exam

The BONENT Exam Committee has recently completed the revision of the Certified Peritoneal Dialysis Nurse (CPDN) examination. It will go into use in January 2010. Let all the PD nurses you know that they can enhance their professional profile by becoming a CPDN.

#### Regional Representative Summit in Vegas

At the BONENT Board of Directors' meeting in October, it was decided to develop additional ways to market BONENT. We know that BONENT is the premier organization for certifying nurses and technologists in dialysis. We need to revitalize the face of BONENT. As part of this effort, at the NANT conference in Las Vegas, I will be hosting a "Regional Representative Summit" event where BONENT will invite all of regional representatives who are attending the Conference to meet with me and other Board members to discuss how BONENT can be even better in the future.

#### Increased BONENT Presence in Your Area

The BONENT Board has also committed to having a presence at as many regional meetings as possible. So, if you know of a meeting in your region that is coming up, let us know and we will try to get someone from BONENT to attend.

#### Certification of International Nurses Expanding

The BONENT Board has decided to increase our activity in the international arena and with nurses. Over the past few years, much of BONENT's energy has been directed to passing PCT certification. Since that is now a reality, we are going to direct more efforts to getting staff nurses BONENT-certified. The CHN and CPDN are certifications for the front-line RN's that are working on an everyday basis with dialysis patients. It allows them to certify in their specialty. These exams are not for managers, administrators or educators, but for the nurse that takes care of dialysis patients

As you can see, these have been exciting times for BONENT and we are convinced that the future will be even more exciting. We encourage you to be a bigger part of BONENT. This is an organization committed to our members and we need you to help us keep that commitment.

## PROFILE



**Laikisha Jeffries**  
BONENT Membership Director

**How long have you been the BONENT Membership & Certification Director?**  
I've been the BONENT Membership & Certification Director since February, 2006, when the BONENT office moved to Washington, DC.

**Do you have a background in dialysis?**

My background is in association management and retail management. I have been the Membership Director of two other associations.

**How many staff do you oversee?**

There are two other people who work in the BONENT membership

department. One focuses on processing certification and recertification applications and the other focuses on database maintenance.

**What are your main responsibilities?**

I'm the primary contact person for exam proctors, members (current & prospective), employers, state boards of nursing and approved programs. My main task is to ensure that the BONENT Certification/Membership Department runs smoothly. This includes maintaining the BONENT PPE schedule, processing applications (certification & recertification), responding to phone & e-mail questions and mailing membership packets to newly certified members.

**What are the most important changes in your department in your tenure?**

The most important change to my department is the clarity of the information provided on our website, recertification & membership applications and the candidate handbook.

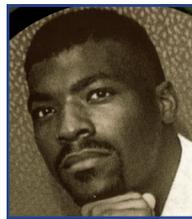
## Welcome New Regional Representatives



**Rick Glendon, CHT**  
Redwood City, CA



**Kazim Naqvi, CHT**  
Deer Park, NY



**James E. Scales, CHT**  
Villa Rica, GA

**Are you interested in becoming a Regional Representative?**

Visit [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org) for qualification and responsibilities.

Contact BONENT Executive Director Peter Anas at 202-462-1252 or via email at [peter@BONENT.org](mailto:peter@BONENT.org)

## CHT Volunteers Needed for Exam Update

In early 2010, BONENT will do an update of the Certified Hemodialysis Technologist (CHT) exam. I ask that any BONENT members with the CHT certification wishing to help in this process, to please contact President RJ Picciano at [president@BONENT.org](mailto:president@BONENT.org). We need an assortment of individuals to do this right. We need technicians that have just passed their certification exam as well as those of you with 10+ years of being certified. We need certified technicians for all parts of the country as well as technicians from for-profit and not-for-profit units. The larger the variety of people participating in this process, the greater the validity of the BONENT exam. So, if you can give us 4-5 hours of your time spread out over January and February, we would love to make you part of the process of keeping the BONENT exam current and relevant.

## MEMBER INTERVIEW

## How Has BONENT Certification Helped You Professionally?



**Carl Lockman, CHT**  
Redwood City, CA

Being BONENT-certified improves my self-esteem and paycheck!



**Debbie Anderson, CHT**  
Cleveland, OH

With BONENT membership I am able to network with other techs.



**Orlandus Robinson, CHT**  
Eugene, OR

It's the only certification Cleveland Clinic would accept.



**Suzzane Dumas, CHT**  
Brooklyn, NY

My BONENT certification helps me better care for my patients.



**Patrick Gaston, CHT,**  
Maple Heights, OH

It has helped me climb up the technical field at CDK.



**Cindy Tims, CHT**  
Melbourne, FL

My BONENT certification has helped me comply with the new Federal CMS regulations.



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Nursing & Technology**  
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Suite 607  
Washington, DC, 20006

## Certification Expired?

**Dialysis Certification DEADLINE: April 14, 2010**

Visit [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org)

## 2009-10 BONENT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS



### Paper & Pencil Exam Schedule

*\*Schedule is subject to change. The Paper & Pencil Exam (PPE) schedule below is updated weekly. The PPE schedule below is a completely different list than the Computer-Based Testing (CBT) list.*

Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline	Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline
Dec. 13	Indianapolis, IN - DCI - Indianapolis	10/29/09	Mar. 6	Seattle, WA - Washington State Convention Center	01/20/10
Dec. 13	Reno, NV - Renown Medical Center	10/29/09	Mar. 7	Reno, NV - Renown Medical Center	01/21/10
Dec. 13	Baltimore, MD - Union Memorial Hospital	10/29/09	Mar. 7	New Orleans, LA - Davita Regional Office	01/21/10
Dec. 13	Atlanta, GA - Dialysis Clinic Inc. - Northside	10/29/09	Mar. 14	New York, NY - TCC HCC	01/28/10
Dec. 20	Sanborn, NY - Niagara County Community College	11/05/09	Mar. 21	Lancaster, CA - Plush Systems	02/04/10
Dec. 20	New Orleans, LA - Davita Regional Office	11/05/09	Mar. 28	Mountlake Terrace, WA - Puget Sound Kidney Center, South	02/11/10
2010 Exams			Mar. 28	New York, NY - TCC HCC	02/11/10
Jan. 5	Eau Claire, WI - Chippewa Valley Tech. College - Health Ed. Ctr.	11/21/09	Apr. 4	New Orleans, LA - Davita Regional Office	02/18/10
Jan. 10	Canfield, OH - Centers for Dialysis Care of Canfield	11/26/10	Apr. 4	New Orleans, LA - Davita Regional Office	02/18/10
Jan. 24	Chicago, IL - University of Chicago Medical Center	12/10/09	Apr. 11	Cleveland, OH - CDC - East	02/25/10
Jan. 24	Mountlake Terrace, WA - Puget Sound Kidney Center, South	12/10/09	Apr. 11	Lancaster, CA - Plush Systems	02/25/10
Jan. 24	Sanborn, NY - Niagara County Community College	12/10/09	Apr. 11	New York, NY - TCC HCC	02/25/10
Jan. 24	Lancaster, CA - Plush Systems	12/10/09	Jun. 13	Warren, OH - Centers for Dialysis Care of Warren	04/29/10
Jan. 24	Smithtown, NY - St. Catherine Hospital	12/10/09	Jul. 11	Toledo, OH - University of Toledo Medical Center	05/27/10
Jan. 24	New Orleans, LA - Davita Regional Office	12/10/09	Aug. 1	Cleveland, OH - CDC - East	06/17/10
Jan. 31	New York, NY - TCC HCC	12/17/09	Sep. 12	Toledo, OH - University of Toledo Medical Center	07/29/10
Feb. 7	Montrose, OH - Conference Center	12/24/09	Oct. 10	Warren, OH - Centers for Dialysis Care of Warren	08/26/10
Feb. 7	Reno, NV - Renown Medical Center	12/24/09	Nov. 7	Cleveland, OH - CDC - East	09/23/10
Feb. 21	Lancaster, CA - Plush Systems	01/07/10	Dec. 5	Montrose, OH - Conference Center	10/21/10
Feb. 28	New York, NY - TCC HCC	01/14/10	Note: Exam list is updated weekly.		



### Computer Based Testing Locations

*The CBT list of locations is updated weekly. Please check [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org) for updates to the list. The CBT list of locations is completely different from the Paper & Pencil Exam (PPE) schedule above.*

For more information, please visit our website at [www.bonent.org](http://www.bonent.org) to download a Candidate Handbook, an Application, or Host Forms.

See the BONENT Web Site: [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org) to discover quick tips and reminders about our:

- Certification Application
- Membership
- Exam Transfers & Withdrawals
- Exam Scores
- Recertification
- Refunds...& Much More!