

Certification UPDATE

Summer 08

Keeping BONENT Members Informed

Significant Changes at BONENT for Exam Candidates

With the new federally-mandated certification regulations passed in April 2008, the Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing Technology (BONENT) has taken some bold steps to accommodate the large pool of nephrology technicians who need to obtain certification by April 2010.

BONENT has added a second exam method by which nurses and technologists can become certified. Beginning October 1, 2008, candidates may take BONENT examinations (CHT, CHN and CPDN) through a computer-based test (CBT), in addition to the current paper & pencil exam (PPE).

“This is a very exciting time for BONENT and for those nephrology professionals who need to be certified in the next 22 months,” said R.J. Picciano, BA, CHT, OCDT, BONENT President. “The BONENT Board and Exam Committee have been working on these changes over the past year, but moved quickly to finalize all details of the new CBT process.”

The CBT examinations will be offered at approximately 175 sites throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Turkey and a growing list of international countries. A complete list of CBT locations with available days and times, separate from that of the PPE list, are on the BONENT web site www.BONENT.org.



The following points are the same for both exam methods:

- * Use the same application (candidates must indicate PPE or CBT)
- * Require the same amount of time
- * Have the same questions
- * Have a proctor on site
- * You choose your own exam site

The differences between the two exam methods are:

- * Each exam type has its own separate list of locations
- * Candidates receive an unofficial printout of their scores as soon as they complete the CBT
- * There is no application deadline for the CBT. Candidates will have 6 months to choose when and where to take the exam after their application has been approved.

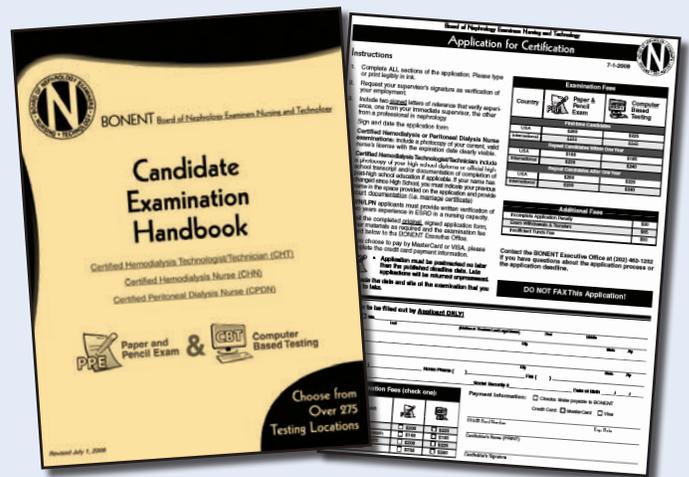
BONENT is known for its three nursing and technologist certification exams taken by national and international members:

- Certified Hemodialysis Technologist/ Technician Examination
- Certified Hemodialysis Nurse Examination
- Certified Peritoneal Dialysis Nurse Examination

Nursing Exam Reduced to 150 Questions & 3 Hours

Examinations Committee Chair Lyle Smith, BSN, CNN, CPDN, says that “Once the BONENT Board of Directors made the decision to proceed with computer-based testing, it was perfect timing to reduce the number of nursing exam questions from 200 to 150 and the time limit from four hours to three.”

BONENT Adds Computer Based Testing & More than 175 New Locations



New Marketing Materials

BONENT Executive Director Peter Anas says “With all of these changes come updated marketing materials to help explain all aspects to potential exam candidates. We’ve developed a logo for both PPE and CBT and use them throughout our materials to focus on any differences between the two exam methods.” There is a new and easier-to-understand Candidate Examination Handbook with the date of 7-1-08 on the yellow-colored front cover. The new two-page exam Application Form has the date 7-1-08 in the top right corner. The BONENT web site www.BONENT.org has been slightly re-structured to find information quicker and to include the new information that’s in the handbook.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Certification Mandatory by April 2010.

More than half a million Americans suffer from end stage renal disease and are kept alive by a transplant, hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis. A majority of patients use hemodialysis as a modality of treatment. Having this disease entitles patients to receive Medicare coverage.

The Federal government, being concerned about the education, empowerment and quality of care that kidney patients receive, has enacted legislation that will affect the way nephrology professionals practice for years to come. Dialysis technicians are required to complete special education and training and will need to be certified to practice by April 2010.

To accommodate this special legislation the BONENT organization has added a second exam method by which technicians can become certified. This method is Computer Based Testing (see the article on page one).

Beginning October 1, 2008, nurses and technicians can become BONENT certified through taking the traditional Paper & Pencil Exam (PPE) or via Computer Based Testing (CBT), available in 175 convenient testing centers throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Turkey and a growing list of other international countries.

For more information on the recent legislation and the steps BONENT has taken to help facilitate the certification of every practicing technician, log on to our web site at www.BONENT.org.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



RJ Picciano
President

BONENT Certification Well-Received at ISPD in Turkey

The International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD) held their 12th Biennial Congress in Istanbul Turkey and BONENT had a booth in the exhibit hall. The theme of the Congress was "Positioning PD towards the Future". The discussion included the differences in PD practice and utilization in different countries and culture. The idea of how to make PD more effective and how to get more patients to select CAPD or APD was part of almost every presentation.

It became apparent that in countries where financing for dialysis was less, PD was more utilized, essentially because PD supplies could be stored during periods when there was more funding and used to get patients through times of little or no funding for dialysis. The hurdles to get supplies and trained healthcare professionals into "3rd World" countries were also discussed.

BONENT had a booth in the main exhibit hall, complements of the ISPD organizing committee, along with the ISPD-North American Chapter, European Dialysis & Transplant Nurses' Association and the Turkish Dialysis Nurses' Association. Lyle Smith, RN, CPDN, chair of the BONENT International Committee and BONENT Board Director, managed the booth. He had discussions with many nurses and physicians from a vast number of countries on the value of PD certification of nurses as one component of positioning PD for the future. The BONENT message was well received.

Mr. Smith also had the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion of PD nurses on the most pressing issues in PD Therapy, including how to get the use of PD in all countries, ethics and end of life issues. If there are any questions about the seminar or ISPD, they can be sent to Lyle at Lyle_BONENT@msn.com.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE INTERVIEW

Zelma Griffin, BS, CHT

What is your professional position and the name of your facility?

I am a dialysis technologist and a dialysis instructor for Condensed Curriculum International, Inc., St. John Hospital, Chicago Height, IL

What is your background experience?

I worked as a nurse aid and graduated with an AAS from Malcolm X College in dialysis and also received a BA in Health Administration from Governor State University. I hold several certifications in the dialysis and medical field and am the NANT Director of Chapter Affairs, NANT Past President and also President of the NANT Chicago Chapter.

What led you to this as a profession?

I went to nursing school because there was no one to care for my grandmother and I wanted to earn my degree as an LPN. Then I realized that there was a shortage in the dialysis profession, so I proceeded to get a degree in Dialysis.

In what ways has membership in BONENT benefited you?

Because of BONENT, my knowledge has expanded, my skills have sharpened and many educational opportunities have been presented to me thorough my co-workers.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the Dialysis field?

The biggest challenges in our field are to continue to improve

quality and research and to promote to dialysis professionals to be aware of the BONENT certification examinations.

How have you, personally, kept up with changes in the field?

I have kept up with all the changes in dialysis by attending professional conferences.

Do you enjoy any hobbies?

I enjoy basketball, football and traveling to Cancun, Acapulco, Aruba, Jamaica, Belize and Puerto Vallarta.

Are there any words of wisdom that you wish to share with fellow members?

Because certification is now required in all states, this is a good step for the profession. Technicians need to continue expanding their knowledge in the dialysis field. So I recommend that they keep up by attending conferences and symposiums.



MEMBER INTERVIEW

How Has BONENT Certification Helped You Professionally?



Brian Flynn, CHT

I got my BONENT certification for my job. It gave me more respect.



Jo Ann Randolph, CHT

After I took my BONENT certification, I got a raise from my job as well as respect. Being certified has helped me professionally.



Diana Shelkov, CHT

Getting certified has helped me personally. It has given me more confidence to do my job. Working with the BONENT office and Laikisha has been a wonderful experience.



John Aquilar, CHT

When I got my BONENT certification, I got more recognition from my co-workers and administration. It also gave me more respect.

Send Us Your Essay for the
**Wesley Watkins
Scholarship**

Deadline for submission:
September 30, 2008

**\$500 awarded annually to as many as four
BONENT members in good standing.**

2008 Topic:
Managing the Difficult Dialysis Patient

Deadline: All documents must be postmarked by September 30, 2008 to be considered.

For More Information:
Visit www.BONENT.org/scholarships



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2008 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
Sep. 21 11:00 a.m.	New York, NY TCC HCC	08/07/08	Oct. 16 5:00 p.m.	Coconut Creek, FL Atlantic Technical Center	09/01/08
Sep. 21 2:00 p.m.	Atlanta, GA Grady Health System	08/07/08	Oct. 18 8:00 a.m.	Macon, GA Central Georgia Technical College	09/03/08
Sep. 27 10:00 a.m.	Brentwood, TN Davita, Inc	08/13/08	Oct. 19 9:00 a.m.	Toms River, NJ Fresenius Renal Institute	09/04/08
Sep. 28 12:00 p.m.	Brooklyn, NY Global Healthcare Training Center	08/14/08	Oct. 19 8:00 a.m.	Wheeling, WV Wheeling Hospital	09/04/08
Oct. 5 8:00 a.m.	Huntingdon Valley, PA Davita - Huntingdon Valley	08/21/08	Oct. 19 10:30 a.m.	Suffern, NY Good Samaritan Hospital	09/04/08
Oct. 5 8:30 a.m.	Detroit, MI One Ford Place	08/21/08	Oct. 25 12:00 p.m.	Pensacola, FL Baptist Hospital	09/10/08
Oct. 5 8:30 a.m.	Warren, OH Centers for Dialysis Care of Warren	08/21/08	Oct. 26 9:00 a.m.	Brooklyn, NY Parkside Dialysis Center	09/11/08
Oct. 12 8:00 a.m.	Reno, NV Renown Medical Center	08/28/08	Nov. 2 8:30 a.m.	Cleveland, OH Center for Dialysis Care East	09/18/08
Oct. 12 9:00 a.m.	East Chicago, IN St. Catherine Hospital Pro. Office Bldg.	08/28/08	Nov. 8 8:00 p.m.	Wheeling, WV Wheeling Hospital	09/24/08
Oct. 12 9:00 a.m.	Miami Beach, FL Centers for Dialysis Care of Warren	08/28/08	Note: Exam list is updated weekly.		



Computer Based Testing Locations

The CBT list of locations is updated weekly. Please check 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 to download a Candidate Handbook, an Application, or Host Forms.

See the BONENT Web Site: www.BONENT.org to discover quick tips and reminders about our:

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