

# Certification UPDATE

Winter 06-07

Keeping BONENT Members Informed

## Tips for a Smooth BONENT Recertification Process

Recertification can be stress-free if you follow a few helpful tips.

### Plan Ahead to Accumulate 45 Contact Hours

Don't wait until the last minute to start accumulating contact hours. The minimum requirement for recertification is a minimum of 30 contact hours in Group A with a minimum of 45 total contact hours. Plan to accumulate at least 11.5 contact hours each year over the 4 year period. Since it is sometimes difficult to get time off of work to attend seminars, splitting the hours over a 4-year period will help you determine which seminars to attend.

### When Should You Submit Contact Hours?

Contact hours should be submitted for recertification every 4 years. You may submit contact hours up to 30 days before or 30 days after your certification expiration date.

### Where Can You Get a Recertification Folder?

The BONENT recertification folder can be downloaded from the BONENT website at [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org). Click on the Recertification button on the left hand side of the page, followed by the link at the bottom of the page. Or, you may request that a folder to be mailed to you if you do not have web access.

### What to Submit

After you accumulate contact hours over the four-year period, you must submit:

- A completed recertification folder and
- Certificates of completion and other required documentation reflecting contact hours.
- Remember, faxed recertification folders will not be accepted.

### How to Categorize Contact Hours

All credits submitted for consideration as contact hour credit towards BONENT recertification must be listed on the BONENT "Contact Hours for Recertification" folder. Be sure to carefully read the instructions before categorizing the contact hours you have acquired.

- Group A – Professional Nephrology Seminars that you attend
- Group B – Programs addressing the broad area of Healthcare, General Nursing, Technical Application and Individualized Continuing Education Activities

The BONENT Recertification Folder

- Group C – Home Study and Online Activities
- Group D – Nephrology-Related Presentations in which you are a presenter
- Group E – Professional Publications in which you are an author
- Group F – Academic Credit Courses

By correctly categorizing your contact hours, you will reduce the processing time for your folder.

### Are Online Hours Accepted?

Be aware when purchasing contact hours online. Online and home study contact hours will not be accepted in Group A unless they are from the list of BONENT Approved Nephrology Educational Programs listed on page 6 of the recertification folder. There are no exceptions to this policy.

### Your Recertification Date is Important

Remember to list your recertification date in the "Summary Documentation for Recertification" on the front page of the recertification folder. The BONENT Executive Office reviews recertification folders by recertification month. By listing your recertification date on the line provided, you will ensure that your folder will be reviewed in a more timely fashion.

### What is the Processing Time for Recertification?

If you submit a complete recertification folder with no issues, the Executive Office will mail your new wallet card up to 8 weeks after receiving your folder. Incomplete folders will take longer to process (see below).

### Issues That Will Increase Processing Time

- Blank recertification folder submitted with certificates
- Certificates submitted without a recertification folder
- Complete recertification folder submitted without certificates
- Certificates submitted without your name on them
- Contact hours categorized incorrectly
- Any part of the recertification folder is not complete
- Folders submitted with less than 30 contact hours in Group A
- Folders submitted with less than 45 total contact hours

# Certification UPDATE

The BONENT Certification UPDATE  
is published quarterly by:  
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Nursing & Technology**



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Information & Competency

Dear Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. As we embark upon another year, we look back with pride at our accomplishments over the past year. This includes but is not limited to improved customer service, a new web site that provides practical, useful information for members and prospective candidates and a new newsletter that provides authoritative information that better serves our members. Of particular interest is membership which forms the basis for BONENT's existence. We have welcomed new members but have also lost members along the way. Our plan for the year is to survey members who have not renewed their certification to determine the main issues and address them. If we don't increase BONENT membership there is no growth.



**RJ Picciano**  
President

Certification in any specialty ensures competency in that area. There are state practice acts that stipulate initial and continued competence of dialysis workers. Some states require mandatory certification and/or accumulation of continuing education credits over a certain period. Certificants are expected to achieve the highest level of practice in their field, as their knowledge, skills and abilities are validated to ensure positive outcomes in clinical practice. Studies conducted on certification as it relates to work have produced positive responses. Common responses were that certification caused personal growth and satisfaction. Certificants were more competent and confident in their practice and were seen as credible providers. They also had the ability to detect complications and errors, effectively communicate and collaborate with other members of the health care team and achieve higher patient satisfaction rates.

Encourage co-workers to become certified. Direct them to our web site or have them call our Executive Office and we will be happy to provide them with information that they need. Best wishes for the New Year.

## An Examination Process of Integrity & Security

By Doug Gregory,  
Director of Operations  
Schroeder Management Technologies  
(BONENT's Testing Company)

The integrity of BONENT's credentialing program rests in large part on the fair and impartial assessment of candidates. Maintaining security of the assessment instrument, as well as the assessment process, is necessary to uphold BONENT's and your professional integrity.

Within the context of the administration of the examinations, the standardization of both timing and conditions must be in place and linked internally. Candidates cannot come to an examination setting with different levels of specific information about the content of the examination they are about to take. The standardization of the examination information and the background of each candidate are critical to a successful testing environment. This is why BONENT places so much emphasis on complete and accurate examination registrations. No individual wants to expend the time and



**Doug Gregory**, of Schroeder Management Technologies, **Adrian Buttimore**, CHT, BONENT International Advisor and **Peter Anas**, BONENT Executive Director, at recent BONENT Board Meeting held at SMT offices in Dunedin Florida.

energy to be successful on a credentialing examination, knowing that information about the test or even a test question has been shared with some candidates. The improper obtaining of questions or information about

*Continued on Page 3...*

# BOARD MEMBER PROFILE INTERVIEW

## 1. What is your current professional position and the name/city/state of your facility?

I am a staff RN for Naphcare at Two Rivers Correctional Institute in Umatilla, OR. I also work part-time for Tri-City Kidney Center in Kennewick, WA, as well as consulting in Home Dialysis.

## 2. What is your background experience?

As a Nephrology nurse for over 24 years, I have done most everything in the field. I've managed an Acute program that served 8 hospitals. I've managed a large Home Dialysis program that included HHD, CAPD and CCPD. I have also been involved in transplant. I was Division Manager for a group of dialysis facilities. I have been a consultant in home dialysis and have published multiple articles on the subject. I have presented at numerous national and international meetings and I have lobbied for change in Nephrology that would positively impact our patients.

## 3. What led you to this as a profession?

I worked in PD while completing my RN training and went back to dialysis after getting burnt-out in critical care.

## 4. In what ways has membership in BONENT benefited you?

My BONENT membership has given me one more forum to advocate for our patients. I believe that the best care comes from the most qualified and caring people and that the best way to measure that is through the certification of nurses and technologists.

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

Doing more for our patients with less resources.

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

I read multiple journals every month. I attend any local educational opportunity that I can find. I do as much on-line

continuing education as possible. I network with people I know in Nephrology as often as possible. I attend regional and national meetings whenever I can. I take any opportunity I can find to be more involved such as last year when I was involved in the revision of the Core Curriculum for Patient Care Technicians that will be released in 2007. If you want to consider yourself as a "professional" as a nurse or technician, you are responsible for making it more than a job, not your employer or someone else.

There are opportunities for everyone if you are open to them and find time in your already busy life. At BONENT, we are always looking for assistance in updating the content of our exams.

## 7. Do you enjoy any hobbies?

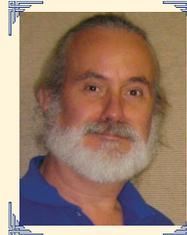
Fishing, boating, rafting, travel, wine-making and spending time with my 2 grandsons

## 8. As the BONENT Legislative Chairman, what significant legislation changes do you see in the near future?

There are a number of states that have recently passed legislation that require licensure or certification for patient care technicians, but what I would hope to see in the future is a universal national licensure for patient care technicians and a requirement that nurses be certified in the area of dialysis that they work in and maintain that certification (as well as other specialties in nursing).

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

I would recommend that all BONENT members get involved. Promote certification to your fellow caregivers. Challenge nurses to be certified. We all want to be called "professionals". We must be willing to do the things that make us "professionals".



**Lyle Smith**  
BONENT Board  
Member; BSN,  
CNN, CPDN

*Continued from Page 2...*

questions on an examination is termed a "breach" of the examination.

There are lots of ways a breach can occur, and that is why BONENT stresses the continuous custody of its examinations in a security minded environment. Continuous custody is basically; who has access to the exams, who handles the exams before it is placed in front of a candidate, the candidate themselves, and who handles the exams after a candidate has completed the examination. Every step in the handling process is tracked and documented and this is generally referred to as, the "chain of custody."

Everyone in BONENT has a part in providing complete and accurate data about the

chain of custody of each and every exam booklet. Examination booklets and answer sheets are individually coded. Each and every person who handles that examination booklet documents their handling from the time it is printed, to the time that examination booklet has been used and is destroyed. BONENT never issues the same examination booklet more than once.

When you sit down to participate in the BONENT credentialing examination, you are assured of a fair and equal opportunity to verify your level of knowledge and competency against an acceptable body of knowledge, reflecting identified professional standards and common bodies of knowledge.

## LETTERS

Recently I encountered a situation when trying to renew my BONENT recertification. I contacted the Membership Director, Laikisha Jeffries. She was very prompt in responding to my inquiry in a short amount of time. Her response was very professional and friendly. I just want to say thank you again to BONENT for your professional staff and their ability to help professionals like me.

Thank you  
Lisa McRae, CHT  
Eielson Air Force Base, AK



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## Moved?

Please fax or mail us your latest home address, phone and email to the BONENT address above.

## Did you get our Email News?

To receive an E-newsletter (via email), email us your email address to [membership@Bonent.org](mailto:membership@Bonent.org)

## 2007 BONENT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline	Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline
<b>Jan. 7</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Warren, OH</b> Centers for Dialysis Care of Warren	<b>11/23/06</b>	<b>Apr. 8</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Hempstead, NY</b> Health Care Training Institute	<b>02/22/07</b>
<b>Jan. 21</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Detroit, MI</b> Greenfield Health System	<b>12/07/06</b>	<b>Apr. 10</b> 1:00 p.m.	<b>Orlando, FL</b> Walt Disney World Dolphin	<b>02/23/07</b>
<b>Jan. 28</b> 12:00 p.m.	<b>Hermiston, OR</b> FMC Hermiston	<b>12/14/06</b>	<b>May 6</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Toledo, OH</b> Medical University of Ohio at Toledo	<b>03/22/07</b>
<b>Jan. 28</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Hempstead, NY</b> Health Care Training Institute	<b>12/14/06</b>	<b>May 20</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Detroit, MI</b> Greenfield Health System	<b>04/05/07</b>
<b>Feb. 3</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>San Antonio, TX</b> Crowne Plaza San Antonio Airport Hotel	<b>12/20/06</b>	<b>Jun. 10</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Warren, OH</b> Centers for Dialysis Care of Warren	<b>04/26/07</b>
<b>Feb. 4</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Montrose, OH</b> FMC Conference Center	<b>12/21/06</b>	<b>Jul. 8</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Columbus, OH</b> Hood Dialysis	<b>05/24/07</b>
<b>Feb. 4</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Wilmington, NC</b> Davita Dialysis of Wilmington	<b>12/21/06</b>	<b>Aug. 5</b> 8:00 p.m.	<b>Cleveland, OH</b> Centers for Dialysis Care	<b>06/21/07</b>
<b>Mar. 4</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Columbus, OH</b> Hood Dialysis	<b>01/18/07</b>	<b>Sept. 9</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Toledo, OH</b> Medical University of Ohio at Toledo	<b>07/26/07</b>
<b>Mar. 4</b> 10:00 p.m.	<b>Hempstead, NY</b> Health Care Training Institute	<b>01/18/07</b>	<b>Sept. 16</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Detroit, MI</b> Greenfield Health System	<b>08/02/07</b>
<b>Mar. 9</b> 8:00 p.m.	<b>Atlanta, GA</b> Sheraton Atlanta Downtown Hotel	<b>01/19/07</b>	<b>Oct. 14</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Montrose, OH</b> FMC Conference Center	<b>08/30/07</b>
<b>Mar. 14</b> 1:00 p.m.	<b>Chicago, IL</b> The Drake Hotel	<b>01/26/07</b>	<b>Nov. 4</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Toledo, OH</b> Medical University of Ohio at Toledo	<b>09/20/07</b>
<b>Apr. 8</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Cleveland, OH</b> Center for Dialysis Care	<b>02/22/07</b>	<b>Dec. 2</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Columbus, OH</b> Hood Dialysis	<b>10/18/07</b>

*\*Schedule is subject to change. 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)**

You'll find out quick tips and reminders about our:

- Certification Application
- Membership
- Exam Transfers & Withdrawals
- Exam Scores
- Recertification
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