

Certification UPDATE

Winter 07-08

Keeping BONENT Members Informed

International Spotlight:

BONENT International Representatives Help in Australia

BONENT is very proud of the work of its two International Representatives in Australia – Martine Grant and Jodie Morgan, both of North West Dialysis Service (NWDS), a division of Melbourne Health, Victoria, Australia. “They are an important liaison between the Executive Office in Washington DC and our membership base in Australia,” says BONENT Executive Director Peter Anas.



Martine Grant
*International
Representative*

Martine Grant is the current Clinical Development & Training Manager with the MSDA of North West Dialysis Service. She began her dialysis career as a trainee Haemodialysis Technician in 1998 after having worked in a variety of laboratory roles and a regional Nestle Factory after undertaking a combined Science and Education Degree. In May 2002 she took on the role of Maternity relief Educator for the Metropolitan area and moved in to her current role permanently in 2004. Professionally, she was one of the first international candidates to sit the BONENT exam in New Zealand in 2001 and has also

presented orals and posters at 5 RSA conferences throughout Australia since 2000. Her time is kept busy by having on average 3 intakes of trainee staff per year having trained approximately 50 staff since 2002.



Jodie Morgan
*International
Representative*

Jodie Morgan, the Clinical Development and Training Educator, has been employed with NWDS for over 16 years in various clinical, educator and management roles. Having completed a Bachelor of Science in 1991, she commenced employment as a Haemodialysis Technician and after several years, which included a variety of supervisory roles, became an assistant satellite dialysis manager with a primary role in education and training. After returning from maternity leave in 2003, she commenced her current part-time position, which involves coordination of the continuing education program, clinical

competencies & assessments for MSDA, an active participation in assessment of some of these competencies and the education of trainee technicians. She currently chairs the NWDS Policy and Procedure Haemodialysis Committee. She also, was one of the first international candidates to become BONENT certified (2001)

and has attended and participated in numerous RSA conferences both nationally and internationally.

North West Dialysis Service is one the largest providers of dialysis therapy in Australia with 7 metropolitan satellite units and 23 regional partners. The Metropolitan Satellite Dialysis Area, which incorporates 6 of these metropolitan satellite units and employs over 80 Haemodialysis Technicians, provides maintenance haemodialysis for more than two hundred End Stage Kidney Disease patients. The program is managed and supported by an overarching executive committee, clinical case managers (clinical nursing roles), satellite unit managers and various allied health partners such as dieticians and social workers.

NWDS employs Haemodialysis Technicians from various employment backgrounds with the emphasis on recruiting applicants who possess tertiary level science qualifications. On commencement of employment, trainees undergo an intensive theoretical and practical based training program which has been developed by the Technician Educators in consultation with executive management and medical staff.

After 2 years of employment with NWDS, Haemodialysis Technicians are eligible and encouraged to sit for the BONENT examination and if successful are awarded a Grade 2 Technician position which has an expanded role with inclusions such as competency assessment of staff, preceptorship and other organisational responsibilities.

An Active Continuing Education Program

NWDS has an active continuing education program for all clinical staff with the expectation that they will complete annual targets of professional development hours and various competencies such as Basic Life Support/Defibrillation, No-Lift, Fire training and biannual Anger and Aggression. Annual clinical assessments are conducted in an area of advanced clinical knowledge such as ‘Vascular Access’ and ‘Renal Bone Disease’ and every 3 years in Basic Skills where staff must complete a theoretical and practical package achieving 100% in all components! Clinical staff is also encouraged to participate in the Renal Society of Australasia (RSA), an organisation that represents many and varied professions in the area of kidney health and a number of NWDS staff regularly attend conferences, meetings and social events. An annual NWDS seminar day, which showcases the achievements of the service, gives staff the opportunity to socialise and have some fun with included sessions such as ‘Laughter Therapy’ and ‘Team Building’.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

What Do Legislative Issues Mean for Us & Our Patients?

Dear BONENT Members;

Let's hope everyone has embarked upon the new year with an attitude to explore the many opportunities that exist in your area of interest. The new year has found us with legislative issues that affect our area of practice. The centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have developed a bundled prospective payer system for dialysis services. This will ensure that services delivered will be more accurately reimbursed. This was developed as a requirement by the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. Currently, dialysis services are reimbursed separately from drugs, laboratory work and supplies that are needed. What does this mean for dialysis workers and patients? This means that the workers will have an opportunity to enhance the quality of care and improve clinical outcomes for patients. This bundled prospective payment system will begin January 1, 2011.

A New Recertification Process Now in Effect

Don't Forget. As of March, 2008, the new recertification process is in effect. The new process is less time consuming and will shorten the waiting period for members to receive new wallet cards. Please visit the BONENT website for detailed information regarding the recertification process and requirements.

We Mourn the Loss of a BONENT Past President

The BONENT Board of Directors extends its condolences to the family of Leissa Cmar on her recent passing. Leissa has held several positions within our organization ranging from Regional Representative to President. She was very instrumental in moving the organization forward through key changes she made with the management & testing company in the 1990's. Those changes created growth within our organization. Leissa provided guidance over the last 15 years to several health agencies, government officials and the Kidney Foundation on certification and she was instrumental in inspiring dialysis technicians to become certified.



RJ Picciano
President



New Recertification Form



Leissa Cmar
Past President

We Need Regional Representatives

The states below do not have BONENT Regional Representatives.

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Hawaii
Idaho

Iowa
Kansas
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana

Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Mexico
North Carolina
North Dakota
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota

Utah
Vermont
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

Interested?

- Check www.BONENT.org for responsibilities.
- Contact BONENT Executive Director Peter Anas at 202-462-1252 or via email at peter@BONENT.org

Exam Proctors

Remind your exam applicants that exam results will be received 3-4 weeks after the exam.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE INTERVIEW

Dennis Schell, CHT, OCDT

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

My current professional position is that I am a Technical Leader for Dialysis Partners of NW Ohio, Toledo, a division of Greenfield Health Systems, part of the Henry Ford Health System.

What is your background experience?

I started in dialysis as a licensed paramedic. I started in patient care and later went to school for machine maintenance. I continued to develop my skills in water purification systems. I have worked on committees within our organization aimed at developing standards for continuous quality improvement.

What led you to this as a profession?

I was fortunate to get the opportunity to work in a medical field since I was too young to be hired as a paramedic in the state of Ohio.

In what ways has membership in BONENT benefited you?

BONENT membership to me is all about being a professional in my field. When I first became BONENT certified, I was excited about having passed the test. I felt it gave me confidence that I understood the concepts of dialysis and patient care.

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

One of the biggest challenges facing the dialysis field is quality and professional care in a for-profit competitive environment.

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

There have been many changes in the dialysis field from the time I started until now. I have kept up with these changes through

attendance at professional meetings, reading professional journals, corporate committee involvement and participation as a board member for BONENT.

Do you enjoy any hobbies?

At this time, one hobby is raising my children and attending their events. Anna is in basketball, soccer and track. Jacob plays soccer, tennis, field goal kicker in football and is an avid musician, playing drums and piano. Another hobby of mine is collecting medical equipment and shipping it to third world countries. I am currently working on setting up a dialysis unit in Guatemala at the Roosevelt Hospital.

As the BONENT board member, what changes do you see in the life of a dialysis technician in the future?

I would like to see the Dialysis Technician become a more highly recognized professional in the medical field. This would be best accomplished through more emphasis on education and certification thus creating a more knowledgeable staff resulting in better patient care.

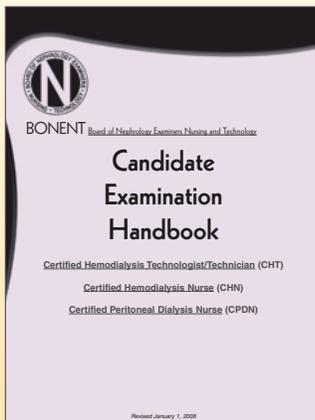
Are there any words of wisdom that you wish to share with fellow members?

My advice to BONENT dialysis technicians is to never stop learning. Lead by example and be a professional in your field. I try to always remember the reason why I am here - it is for the patient. This can be difficult sometimes because our responsibilities in the dialysis area continue to grow.



Dennis Schell
Board Member

NEW
Candidate Handbook
Now Available!



Revised 1-1-08 - Download it at
www.BONENT.org

Member Interview



How Has BONENT Certification Helped You Professionally?

Barbara Klepach, RN, CNN, CHN, North Royalton, OH

“Being BONENT certified as a hemodialysis nurse has enhanced my career by keeping me informed about new developments - clinical and legislative - in the renal community. It also provides a wonderful forum for networking and information sharing with other hemodialysis practitioners.”

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

Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline	Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline
Apr. 26 8:00 a.m.	Corpus Christi, TX Hilton Garden Inn	03/12/08	Jun. 20 9:00 a.m.	Istanbul, Turkey ISPD - Istanbul Turkey	04/21/08
Apr. 27 9:00 a.m.	Chicago, IL The University of Chicago Hospitals	03/13/08	Jun. 22 1:30 p.m.	Louisville, KY Unv. of Louisville Kidney Disease Program	05/08/08
May 3 8:00 a.m.	Orange, CA St. Joseph Hospital Renal Center	03/19/08	Jun. 22 2:00 p.m.	Atlanta, GA Grady Health System	05/08/08
May 4 8:00 a.m.	Toledo, OH University Toledo Medical Center	03/20/08	Jul. 13 8:00 a.m.	Toledo, OH University Toledo Medical Center	05/29/08
May 13 6:00 p.m.	Coconut Creek, FL Atlantic Technical Center	03/29/08	Jul. 20 9:00 a.m.	Burgaw, NC Davita Dialysis	06/05/08
May 18 10:00 a.m.	Dallas, TX Davita Downtown Dallas	04/03/08	Aug. 3 8:30 a.m.	Montrose, OH Springside Place	06/19/08
Jun. 1 10:00 a.m.	Mountlake Terrace, WA Puget Sound Kidney Centers - South	04/17/08	Aug. 10 8:30 a.m.	Detroit, MI One Ford Place	06/26/08
Jun. 1 10:00 a.m.	Utica, NY Faxton Campus	04/17/08	Aug. 17 1:00 p.m.	Englewood, NJ FMC Englewood	07/03/08
Jun. 1 1:30 p.m.	Wynnewood, PA Lankenau Hospital	04/17/08	Sept. 14 8:00 a.m.	Toledo, OH University Toledo Medical Center	07/31/08
Jun. 8 8:30 a.m.	Warren, OH Centers for Dialysis Care of Warren	04/24/08	Note: Exam list is updated weekly.		

**Schedule is subject to change. 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

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

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