

Change of Address Form

Please submit this form to the BONENT Executive Office if you have any changes to your address. Please fill in all applicable information and forward to the BONENT Executive Office.

Please check below accordingly. *Preferred Mail:* all mailings will be sent to this address.

Name: _____ Credentials: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Business Address
Company/Institution: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Other: _____

Please mail or fax to: BONENT Executive Office, _____
Or send your updated information via e-mail to: _____

Board of Nephrology Examiners
Nursing and Technology, Inc.



Board of Nephrology Examiners
Nursing and Technology, Inc.
t

BONENT Update SPRING 2005

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

I was recently in Tampa, Florida for the Twenty-Fifth Annual Conference on Peritoneal Dialysis, Eleventh International Symposium on Hemodialysis and Sixteenth Annual Symposium of Pediatric Dialysis. There were 30 countries represented at the conference and over 3000 nephrology professionals in attendance.

BONENT had a great booth location. Representing BONENT at the booth were Lyle Smith, BSN, CNN, CPDN, BONENT Board Director; Adrian Buttimore, CHT, BONENT International Advisor; and myself. It was very educational for all of us. We met techs, nurses and doctors from all over the world and discussed current developments in the field of dialysis as well as certification programs.

Adrian Buttimore and I spent a lot of time discussing certification with a physician from Bolivia who is interested in certification for his country. I will keep the membership updated on our progress.

Every visitor to the BONENT booth was given a luggage tag and penknife with the BONENT logo and website displayed. We had several nurses and technicians from Canada that expressed an interest in the BONENT examination. The BONENT organization is in the process of working out the details to host an examination administration in Toronto, Canada.

I would like to advise the membership of changes that have taken place over the last few months.

- The BONENT Executive Office has a new assistant, Kate Nettles, who replaces Deedra Dowd.
- For those proctoring BONENT examinations, we will no longer utilize a pager to contact _____ (BONENT's testing agency) when we have a question or problem. We now have a cell phone number which will allow us to speak with someone directly. The cell phone number will be listed in the supervisor's manual.

We are currently recruiting members to join our Regional Representatives Committee. If any member is interested in serving in this capacity please contact the BONENT Executive Office.

If at any time you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by e-mail at RJPCHT@aol.com. In addition, you can always call the BONENT Executive Office at 913/541-9077 and the staff will be happy to address any questions or concerns that you may have. ■

RJ Picciano, BA, CHT, OCDT
BONENT President
RJPCHT@aol.com

News from the BONENT Executive Office

One of the most frequently asked questions received at the BONENT Executive Office is regarding late fees. BONENT members and examination applicants request ways to keep fees due to BONENT as low as possible. One way to ensure that you are paying the minimum fees to the BONENT organization is to organize your documentation and mail it to the office, on time, and with all the appropriate documents enclosed. BONENT assesses a fee for late annual dues payments, incomplete examination application documentation, and incomplete recertification documentation. Individuals can be assured that they will not be penalized with a late/incomplete fee if documentation is reviewed prior to submitting applications to the BONENT Executive Office. If you know of a fellow co-worker or friend that is preparing to complete the application for examination, please encourage them to send all required materials and fees in with their initial application. If you or a fellow co-worker are preparing your recertification materials, please double check that all copies of documentation of contact hours are included and all annual dues payments have been received by BONENT.

The current incomplete/late fee structure is:

- Annual Dues – \$10 late fee for each year that is past due
- Examination Applications – \$25 incomplete documentation fee
- Recertification Folders – \$25 incomplete documentation fee

Please help yourself and others by gathering the required documentation and submitting completed documents to the BONENT Executive Office by the appropriate deadlines.

As always we welcome your questions and comments. Please write to us at _____.

Best regards,
Cathy Berra, MBA
BONENT Executive Director

Licensure for PCTs – What We Know at This Point

There have been discussions in Congress and on state levels about how to most effectively regulate patient care technicians (PCTs) in the Hemodialysis facility. Most states have chosen not to address the issue. In states that do not have a legal status for patient care technicians, it is very unclear who is responsible for the quality of care delivered by PCTs and who is accountable for malpractice or patient harm. Is it the charge nurse, the administrator or the Medical Director? These individuals are employed by the dialysis facility or the company that owns them and, Medicare regulations say that the Medical Director is responsible for all facets of operation and patient care. In these days where most clinics are owned by LPOs (large provider organizations), that becomes a major concern.

Many states are realizing that this quandary will eventually lead to litigation and other unpleasant happenings and have decided to, through a methodical process; decide how they want to regulate PCTs. The leader in this regulatory process has been Ohio, which requires certification and licensure. It has been the model for other states. In volume 32, number 1 of the Nephrology Nursing Journal, the article, "State Laws and Regulations Specific to Dialysis: An Overview" describes information put together by one of the LPOs. The information published lacks information about specific state regulations and requirements. BONENT would like to ask the membership to comment on the specific requirements of their state for Patient Care Technicians. We would, also, like to know of any movement toward licensure in your state. BONENT would like to assist State Legislators and other officials in developing the appropriate regulation for their state. ■

By Lyle Smith, BSN, CNN, CPDN
BONENT Director

A Review of BONENT Recertification

At the BONENT board meeting held in October 2004, the board reviewed the process of recertification. At this meeting, the board discussed and made some significant changes to the current recertification procedure. These changes were made to increase the concentration of contact hours obtained through nephrology related programs. Increasing the emphasis in this area is important to the promotion of competence and excellence in the field of nephrology technology. The changes also reflect the BONENT Board's commitment to encourage the study and advancement of nephrology and nursing technology.

BONENT certification is nationally recognized as a benchmark for excellence in the field of nephrology nursing and technology. The BONENT test is the oldest certification test in this field. The BONENT certification is used by some states for their licensure certificate. Arizona, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia and West Virginia currently require testing and certification for the employment of nephrology technologists. Other states, such as New Mexico and Kentucky, are contemplating requiring testing.

The BONENT certification is valid for four years from the original date the examination was taken. A member remains qualified as long as their certification is renewed. All members that are currently certified are entitled to use the titles "Certified Hemodialysis Nurse (CHN)," "Certified Peritoneal Dialysis Nurse (CPDN)," or "Certified Hemodialysis Technologist (CHT)" in conjunction with his or her name. In order to continue certification beyond the four-year period, one of the following two procedures must be followed:

1. Contact hours or continuing education units may be accumulated
2. The examination could be taken again.

Recertification, through the accumulation of contact hours, is accomplished by completing 45 contact hours during the four year BONENT certification period. These contact hours may be obtained through attendance at meetings and seminars. At least thirty (30) of the forty-five (45) hours must be from nephrology related programs. ANNA, NANT, and AAMI are some of the organizations that would sponsor educational programs for acquiring contact hours. The remaining fifteen (15) contact hours necessary for recertification may be acquired through attendance or completion of other health related seminars and programs.

Documentation must be kept of the hours accumulated as well as any certificates issued. The BONENT web site (_____) offers very clear instructions as well as documentation forms needed to complete the recertification process. ■

Dennis Schell CHT, OCDT
BONENT Director

Board of Nephrology Examiners
Nursing & Technology, Inc.

Wesley Watkins Scholarship

This scholarship is available to any BONENT member who is in good standing. Each year a Nurse and a Technologist/Technician are selected, based on a winning essay that is written by each person. The topic and the value amount of the scholarship are determined each year by the BONENT Board of Directors. Deadline for essay submission is September 30th of each year.

Topic for 2005 is "Discuss the Importance of Professional Boundaries as it Relates to Patient Care"

Criteria for selection

1. Must be currently employed in the field of nephrology.
2. Must be BONENT certified for the last two years.
3. Must include two letters of recommendation from nephrology professionals.
4. Must submit a one page essay on the current topic advertised that will be published in the *Update*.

Submit essay and letters of
recommendation to the
BONENT Executive Office.

BONENT Update

SPRING 2005

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

RJ Picciano, BA, CHT, OCDT

Vice President

Carol Johnson, RNC, MSN, CS, FNP,
CPDN, CNN

Secretary/Treasurer

Paulette C. Sheeley, RN, BSN, CNN, CHN

Directors

Zelma Griffin, BS, CHT
Betty Rivera, CHT
Dennis Schell, CHT, OCDT
Lyle Smith, BSN, CNN, CPDN

International Advisor

Adrian Buttimore, CHT

Presidential Advisor

Barb Guthrie, CHT

Executive Director

Publisher

The *BONENT Update* is a quarterly publication of the Board of Nephrology Examiners Nursing and Technology, _____; website _____. We welcome articles and comments. Please submit all articles typed and doubled spaced on 8½" x 11" paper addressed to the editor by the first of the month prior to publication. Deadlines are strictly maintained.

To reach 4000 nurses and technicians, advertise in our quarterly BONENT publication. Please contact the BONENT Executive Office for advertising rates and more information.