

# CBIC 2022 Update



Presented by:  
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# Disclaimer

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- CBIC President (2022)
- Senior leadership positions in Infection Prevention and Control:
  - In acute/tertiary/long term care settings
  - Ontario Agency of Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario).
- Assistant professor, McMaster University
- **FIRST CERTIFIED: 1986**

*Sandra Callery, RN, MHS, CIC*

# Learning Objectives

- To discuss the value of certification
- To differentiate between the current CBIC examinations
- To understand the options available for CIC recertification
- To describe the Long Term Care Certification in Infection Prevention eligibility requirements and content outline.





First Certified in 1986

What  
certification  
means for me...

1986

# The Value of the CIC®

“CIC supports higher salary compensation, increases job satisfaction through a structured career development framework, improves patient outcome, advances evidence-based infection prevention practices, and is valued by the public and within the health care industry.”

James Marx, et al. Value of certification in infection prevention and control. American Journal of Infection Control 47 (2019) 1265–1269

# The Value of the CIC<sup>®</sup>

- ✓ Instills professionalism among practitioners in infection prevention and control
- ✓ A way to formally recognizes experienced professionals in infection prevention and control who fulfill the requirements for CIC<sup>®</sup> certification and recertification.

# Impact of Certification

“CIC Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (ICP) may have a stronger understanding than other practitioners of the evidence for certain IPAC practices”.

“CIC ICPs are more likely to recommend implementing them in the hospitals where they work- and especially when the lead ICP is certified”.

“Hospitals hiring certified ICPs were more likely to implement certain infection prevention practices”.

Hsu, Yea-Jen et al. Impact of certified infection preventionists in acute care settings: A systematic review. *American Journal of Infection Control* preprint online June 2022

# Purpose of the CIC<sup>®</sup>

The purpose of the CIC<sup>®</sup> certification and recertification process is to protect the public by:

- Providing a standardized measurement of current essential knowledge needed for infection prevention and control professionals

# What is CBIC?

*Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.*

Voluntary, autonomous, multidisciplinary board

**Mission:** Provide pathways to assess and maintain infection prevention competency.

**Vision:** Healthcare without infection through verifiable competency.



# The CIC®

- Certification in Infection Prevention and Control
- The *only* standardized measurement of essential knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of infection prevention and control professionals in North America
- Currently over **8,700 CICs** in **over 40 countries**



# CBIC Examinations

- Certification in Infection Control (CIC<sup>®</sup>) Examination
- Certification in Infection Control Recertification Examination



# ...CBIC Examinations

- Associate-Infection Prevention and Control (a-IPC™) Examination
- Long Term Care Certification in Infection Prevention (LTC-CIP)

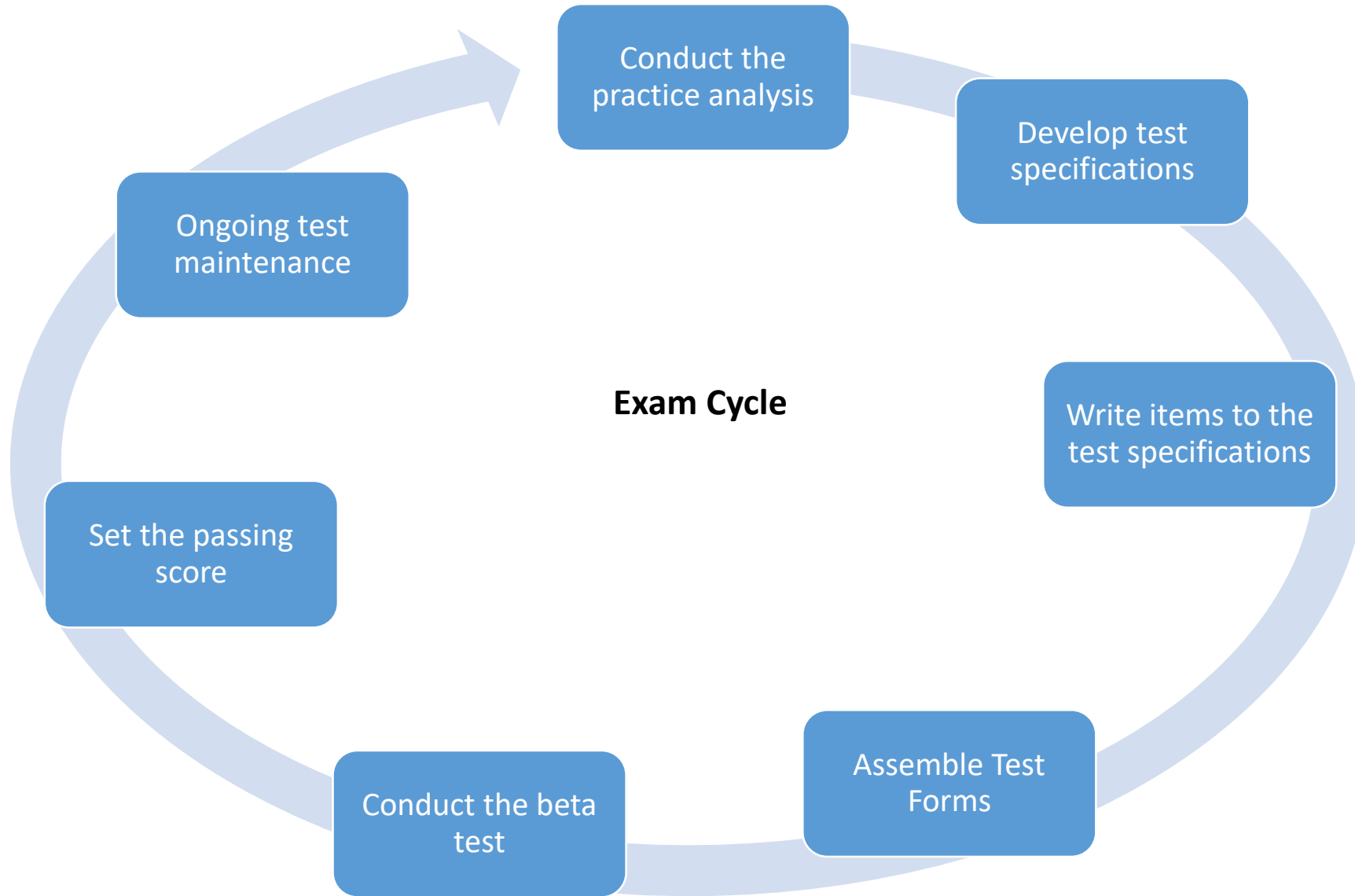


# Certificate *versus* Certification

- A *certificate* is awarded following the completion of a course or series of courses that provides education and training around an intended learning outcome.
- A *certification* is awarded following successful completion of a **comprehensive** examination process and provides an independent assessment of the knowledge, skills, and/or competencies required for competent performance of an occupation or professional role.

*CBIC Exam  
Development Cycle*





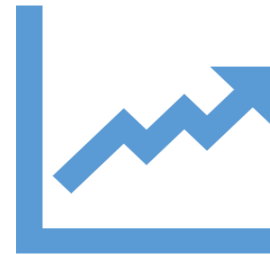
# CBIC Practice Analysis



A Practice Analysis is foundational



Ensures a valid and reliable exam



Conducted every 4-5 years



Results in exams with new criteria

# The CIC<sup>®</sup> - NCCA accredited

- The CIC is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)
- Provides impartial, third-party validation that CBIC's program has met recognized national and international credentialing industry standards for development, implementation, and maintenance of our certification program.



# Candidate Testing Experience

- CBIC partners with Prometric to deliver exams in a secure, proctored environment
- Prometric is a U.S. based company in the test administration industry and provides test development and delivery services





# Candidate Testing Experience

- Candidates can take the exam at a physical testing center or via Prometric's live remote proctoring option, Pro Proctor
- Testing is available 5-7 days a week depending on location





## Prometric Testing Centers

- Located worldwide in 40+ countries
- Testing available 5-7 days a week during normal business hours
- Candidates are monitored throughout the exam in a secure environment

## Pro Proctor

- Candidates can take the exam at home
- A live, remote proctor locks down the candidate's browser
- 360-degree environment check done of candidate workspace



*CIC<sup>®</sup> Examination*



# *CIC<sup>®</sup> Eligibility Requirements*

# CIC<sup>®</sup> Eligibility Requirements

1. **Completed post-secondary education** in a health-related field including but not limited to medicine, nursing, laboratory technology, or public health. Post-secondary includes public or private universities, colleges, community colleges, etc.
2. **Direct responsibility** for the infection prevention program activities in a healthcare setting

# CIC<sup>®</sup> Eligibility Requirements

**3. Work experience**, defined as active engagement in infection prevention, determined by a current job description, for compensation, for a minimum of:

- At least one-year full-time employment **OR**
- Two (2) years part-time employment **OR**
- Completed 3,000 hours of infection prevention work experience earned during the previous three (3) years

# CIC<sup>®</sup> Eligibility Requirements

*Infection Prevention activities must include...*

- Identification of infectious disease processes
- Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation
- Preventing and controlling the transmission of infectious agents
- Environment of care
- Cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, and asepsis

**AND** at least two (2) of the remaining three (3) components:

- Employee / occupational health
- Management and communication
- Education and research



# *CIC<sup>®</sup> Recertification Options*

# CIC<sup>®</sup> Recertification Overview

- CIC certification is valid for five years from the year of successful examination.
- Recertification takes place every five years
- Recertification can be completed via infection prevention units (IPUs) *or* examination.

# *CIC<sup>®</sup> Recertification by IPUs*

# What is an IPU?

- IPU = Infection Prevention Unit (IPU) = continuing education credits
  - Can be achieved by\*:
    - Presenting at conferences,
    - Authoring publications
    - Attending local or national conferences,
    - Participating in a professional organization in a position of leadership
    - And more! IPU guide available online.
- \*must be infection prevention related

# Recertification by IPUs

- Candidates must submit an IPU portfolio demonstrating completion of a minimum of 40 IPUs
- All IPUs are required to be *from an accredited organization*
- Candidates can accumulate IPUs any time after their previous recertification submission date throughout their five-year recertification period
- Candidates may access IPU portfolio once certified and must submit by October 31<sup>st</sup> of their expiration year.

# IPU Portfolio

## My IPUs



▲ Category	Date Completed	IPUs Earned	Title	Domain	Status
Academic education	4/1/2022	10.00	MPH	Management and Communication, Preventing/Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents, Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation	
Education module (online, paper or live format)	2/1/2022	1.00	Infection Prevention and Control Essentials for Ambulatory Care	Preventing/Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents	
Education module (online, paper or live format)	2/1/2022	4.00	sample	Cleaning; Sterilization; Disinfection; Asepsis	
National conference	4/1/2022	10.00	APIC Illinois	Cleaning; Sterilization; Disinfection; Asepsis, Education and Research, Employee/Occupational Health, Environment of Care, Identification of Infectious Disease Processes, Management and	

# Recertification by IPU's Timeline

Professional portfolio available once certified.

Record activities and upload verification documents

Submit portfolio by October 31<sup>st</sup>

CBIC reviews all portfolios

If successful, new five-year recertification period begins

# Recertification by Infection Prevention Units (IPUs)

- \$375<sup>US</sup> fee required with portfolio submission.
- Once submitted, average review time is three weeks-if there are questions regarding activities, you will be contacted via email. Two resubmissions are permitted.



# Missed deadlines/unsuccessful portfolio

- If you do not submit your portfolio by the deadline of October 31, you must take the online recertification exam.
- This exam must be purchased by November 30 and completed by December 31

# Missed deadlines/unsuccessful portfolio

- **If upon review and resubmission** and your IPU's are not accepted, you must take the proctored CIC exam, which must be purchased by December 17 and completed by December 31.
- The unproctored recertification exam is not an option if your IPU's are not accepted.

# Helpful Hints

- Submit your IPUs as you earn them!
- Reach out to CBIC staff with questions
- Don't wait until October 31 to submit your IPU credits
- Once your 40 credits have been approved, you will receive a new five-year certification and can begin submitting new IPUs for your next portfolio, due in five years.

# IPUs Categories

- Online, paper, or live format education
- Local, national or international conferences and workshops
- Academic education
- Publications
- Presentation
- Participation in professional organization
- Teaching
- Research

# Domains (6/8 required for IPUs)

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Identification of Infectious Disease Processes

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Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation

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Preventing/Controlling the Transmission of Infectious Agents

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Employee/Occupational Health

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Management and Communication

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Education and Research

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Environment of Care

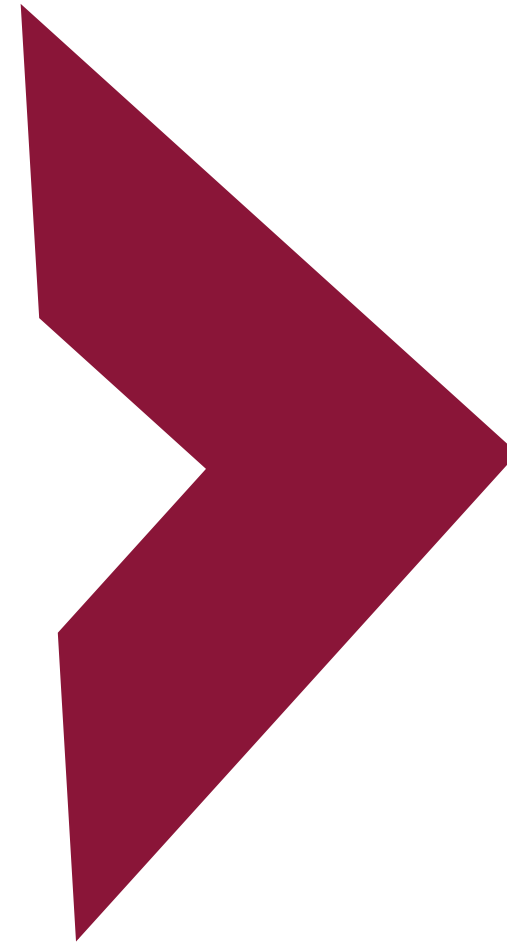
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Cleaning, Sterilization, Disinfection, Asepsis

# IPUs and Chapter Activities

## Does my Chapter activity count towards IPUs?

- Subject matter related to infection prevention and control and falls within at least one of the eight exam domains
- Able to verify chapter member attendance or participation by providing required documentation



**YES!**

# Examples of IPU Activities\*

- Attendance at national conferences (e.g. APIC/IPAC Canada)
- Online, paper or live format education
  - Webinars
  - Online educational modules
- Participation in a professional organization
  - Elected position on a Chapter Board (Treasurer, Secretary, President, President-Elect)

\*All activities must be provided by or presented through an accredited organization

# Potential Accredited Providers



...and many more!





# CEU – IPU Conversion Chart

## For Per Hour IPU Activities

	Duration of participation/instruction	CEUs	CMEs	CNEs	IPUs
<b>Activity:</b> -Online, paper, or live format education -Attendance at national conference IP-related sessions -Teaching	60 minutes of instruction or 1 “contact hour”	.1	1	1	1

# Example Verification Form

Official  
organization  
letterhead



The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and  
Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC) certifies that

*Cathy Bernhardt*

has been awarded 15.47 CNE/contact hours and 12.00 additional IPU credits  
for participating in the educational event:

10 IPU credits have been awarded for attending the live event.  
APIC's 2021 Virtual Annual Conference  
June 28-30, 2021

Date Completed: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Accreditation  
Information



This educational program has been approved for attendees to earn up to  
90 CNE/contact hours and 10 IPUs. Attendees will earn up to 30 additional  
IPUs for the eligible on-demand sessions..

# IPUs Resources

◆◆ IPU's FAQ page: <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/Certification-FAQs/Recertification.htm#RecertificationIPU>

◆◆ IPU's downloadable Criteria Chart:  
<https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/PDFs/2021IPUsCriteriaChart-WebsiteVersionV5.pdf>

◆◆ IPU's Portfolio Manual: <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/PDFs/2022-Recertification-by-Continuing-Education-for-the-CIC.pdf>

# Recertification by Examination

- Online, web-based examination taken on your home computer and on your own schedule
- Must be taken independently
- 150 multiple-choice questions (135 scored questions and 15 pre-test, unscored items)
- Follows same content outline as the CIC

# Recertification Examination

- \$375<sup>US</sup> exam fee submitted with application
- CBIC staff will approve your application and send your details to Prometric – you will receive an approval email within 5-7 business days.
- The recertification examination must be purchased on or before **November 30, of your expiration year.**
- Exam must be completed by **December 31 of expiration year at 11:59 pm Greenwich Mean Time / 6:59 pm EST**

# Recertification Examination

- Results available immediately after submitting the examination
- A candidate that does not pass the recertification examination must take and pass the initial CIC<sup>®</sup> examination to maintain certification –  
**recertification by IPUs is not an option after an unsuccessful attempt on the recertification examination**

# Recertification by Examination Timeline

Examination  
available for  
purchase  
January 1<sup>st</sup> of  
recertifying year

Exam must be  
purchased by  
November 30<sup>th</sup>

Submit Exam by  
December 31<sup>st</sup>

If candidate fails  
recert exam,  
they must apply  
for the CIC  
proctored exam

If successful,  
new five-year  
recertification  
period begins

# Recertification Examination: Helpful Hints

- Apply now!
- **Do not wait until December 31 to begin taking your exam**
- **DO NOT ACCESS** the examination in Internet Explorer or in a remote workplace access
- Review the CBIC website for technical requirements and more:

<https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/Recertification.htm>



**a-IPC**

Associate – Infection  
Prevention and  
Control



*a-IPC™ Certification*

# a-IPC™ Examination

- Entry-level certification examination is a measure of basic infection prevention competency.
- Intended for the novice ICP and for those interested in pursuing careers in infection prevention and control
- Certification valid for three years and non-renewable

# a-IPC™ Eligibility Requirements

- No job-specific or educational requirements to apply.
- Intended for those with formal education but without current work-related duties.
- Perfect stepping-stone to prove a candidate's foundational knowledge, interest and dedication to the field.

# a-IPC™ Test

- Beta testing of new a-IPC exam items completed
- Results of beta testing under review now
- New exam available for prospective candidates after December 15, 2022.



Long-Term Care  
Certification in Infection  
Prevention (LTC-CIP)

# New! Long-Term Care Certification

- Practice analysis completed in 2021
- 1,700 individuals participated in the long-term care job analysis survey
- Survey provided insight into the tasks and knowledge important for ICPs/Infection Preventionists in long-term care
- The survey results guided the creation of the test content outline that all test questions are based on.
- Developed with the same rigor as the CIC®

# LTC-CIP content outline

1. Long-Term Care Settings
2. Management and Communication of the Infection Prevention Program
3. Identification of Infectious Diseases
4. Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation
5. Prevention and Control of Infectious and Communicable Diseases
6. Environment of Care
7. Cleaning, Disinfection, Sterilization of Medical Devices and Equipment
8. Antimicrobial Stewardship
9. Employee/Occupational Health

# LTC-CIP Eligibility Requirements

- Has responsibility for the infection prevention and control programs/activities in a long-term care setting.  
(Candidates will fill out an attestation form confirming this information).
- Completed post-secondary education in a health-related field including but not limited to medicine, nursing, laboratory technology, public health, or biology.
- Post-secondary includes public or private universities, colleges, community colleges etc.



# LTC-CIP- available February 2023

- Beta testing now completed
- Results of beta test will be reviewed in early January 2023
- Exam will be fully available beginning **February 2023**
- Exam will consist of 150 multiple-choice questions

# CBIC Resources

- Exam Prep Materials: <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/Exam-Prep-Resources.htm>
- CBIC Podcasts (Available on CBIC Multimedia page)
- Study Groups: Check with local APIC/IPAC Canada Chapters

Questions?

# Contact Information

## General Information

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