

Checking
in



BY JANET GLOWICZ

AS SUMMER APPROACHES, it is astonishing to think more than a year has passed since COVID-19 began to impact the infection prevention and control (IPC) community. Through these tumultuous times, IPs and CICs have stepped up as industry leaders, giving all they have physically and mentally. While we remain vigilant in our efforts to control the pandemic, please remember to check in with yourself and your colleagues to ensure mental and physical wellbeing.

Progress on new CBIC initiatives

Over the past couple of months, the CBIC Board of Directors has been working diligently to continue to provide pathways to assess and maintain infection prevention competency in all healthcare settings. My first column as the 2021 CBIC President addressed the incredible progress made by the CBIC Board of Directors and CBIC staff in launching a revised IPU Manual and Digital Badging to allow CICs to promote their certification. We have already received wonderful feedback from CICs sharing their badges on social media.

The reliability and validity of the CIC® examination is ensured through the test development process. CBIC performs a Practice Analysis every 4 to 5 years. This is followed by the creation of an updated exam. Each item, or question, in the new exam must be validated and pass/fail standards reset. The 2020 CBIC Practice Analysis survey and item writing have been completed. The next step is to have eligible candidates take a beta test of the revised version of the exam. As the new standards are validated, the current examination will be unavailable for testing. Please consider being a beta tester! CBIC will share communication when candidate applications are open for acceptance.

CBIC routinely evaluates eligibility requirements of each certificate by monitoring trends found among applicants and questions or concerns raised by certificants. The a-IPC™ measures readiness to practice IPC, the CIC examination measures proficiency gained by experience. To further differentiate the a-IPC from the CIC and to reduce subjectivity in the eligibility requirements, CBIC has updated requirements for CIC Initial Certification and Lapsed Certificants effective June 1, 2021. The a-IPC will remain available to anyone that desires to show readiness to work within the profession of IPC. Individuals taking the CIC exam must have a post-secondary degree in a health-related field and hold direct programmatic responsibility for IPC demonstrated by actively working in the field for a certain number of hours in the years prior to taking the exam.

Looking ahead

Connecting virtually has become the new normal in this new world we are living in. We had high hopes to be able to see you in person this year in Austin, however, we are pleased to have the opportunity to exhibit at the virtual APIC Annual Conference in June. We look forward to connecting with you to talk about certification and answer questions about the CIC, a-IPC, and IPUs!

With appreciation,

Janet Glowicz, MPH, PhD, RN, CIC, FAPIC
2021 CBIC President

