


# What certification is right for me?



Presented by:  
Steven J. Schweon RN, MPH, MSN, CIC, LTC-CIP,  
CPHQ, FSHEA, FAPIC & Tiffany Wiksten, DNP, RN, CIC





Where are you  
joining us from  
today?




- Member of CBIC Board of Directors
- Infection Prevention Consultant
- First Certified: 1997

**Steven J. Schweon RN, MPH, MSN, CIC, LTC-CIP,  
CPHQ, FSHEA, FAPIC**



- CBIC President-Elect
- Infection Control Subject Matter Expert for an accrediting organization
- **First Certified: 2014**

**Tiffany Wiksten, DNP, RN, CIC**



Why are you  
considering  
certification?

# What is CBIC?

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

Voluntary, autonomous, multidisciplinary board

**Mission:** Provide pathways to demonstrate and maintain competence in infection prevention and control.

**Vision:** A world free of infections through demonstrated professional competency.

# CBIC Examinations

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



# The Value of the CIC<sup>®</sup>

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

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; and
- Formally recognizing experienced professionals in infection prevention and control who fulfill the requirements for CIC<sup>®</sup> certification and recertification.

# Impact of Certification

- CIC IPs may have a stronger understanding than other practitioners of the evidence for certain IPAC practices
- CIC IPs are more likely to recommend implementing them in the hospitals where they work-  
and especially when the lead IP is certified.
- Hospitals hiring certified infection preventionists 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 Published online: June 25, 2022

p334-339

# Survey of surveillance

- Survey of surveillance in Middle Eastern and North African countries
- Survey of 269 IPC staff using electronic Infection Control Network database in Arab countries
- 69% had surveillance activities
- Conducting surveillance and using appropriate methods were significantly associated with CBIC certification

El-Saed A, et.al. AJIC 2023; 51:1151-1156



# Purpose of the CIC<sup>®</sup>

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

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

# 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.



<https://www.credentialingexcellence.org/>



# The CIC<sup>®</sup>

- The *only* standardized measurement of essential knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of infection prevention and control professionals in North America
- Currently over **9,500 CICs** in **over 47 countries**
- Exam consists of 135 multiple-choice scored items and 15 pre-test, unscored items



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

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

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 Guidelines

## 3. Work experience:

- 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 Guidelines

## *Infection Prevention activities should include...*

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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 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 open-book, unproctored examination.

## Where in the world are CICs?

- Represented across 47 countries
- Countries with 10+ CICs are listed
- 9,524 CICs as of 1.4.24

Country	# of CICs
United States	7779
Canada	945
Saudi Arabia	314
United Arab Emirates	143
India	83
Egypt	75
Qatar	46
Oman	16
Kuwait	13
Philippines	11

Question  
for our  
panelists:

How did you know  
you were ready to  
take the CIC exam?





Question  
for our  
panelists:

How did you prepare  
for the CIC exam?



**a-IPC**

Associate – Infection  
Prevention and  
Control



# a-IPC™ Examination

- Entry-level certification examination is a measure of basic infection prevention knowledge.
- Intended for those interested in gaining expertise or pursuing careers in infection prevention and control.
- Successful certificants have a credential that demonstrates their level of interest and dedication to the field

# a-IPC™ Eligibility Guidelines



No job-specific or  
education  
requirements to apply



Perfect stepping-stone to  
prove a candidate's  
foundational knowledge,  
interest, and dedication to  
the field.

# a-IPC™ Examination

- Exam consists of 85 multiple-choice scored items and 15 pre-test, unscored items
- Certification valid for five years and renewable via examination

# Where in the world are a-IPCs?


- 11 countries represented
- 590 total a-IPCs (as of 1.4.24)

Country	# of a-IPCs
United States	443
Canada	111
Saudi Arabia	11
Egypt	7
United Arab Emirates	6
Jordan	3
India	3
Qatar	3
Oman	1
Kenya	1
Australia	1

Question  
for our  
panelists:

My goal is to earn  
the CIC or LTC-CIP; is  
the a-IPC  
certification a good  
first step?





**LTC-CIP**  
**LONG TERM CARE**

**CERTIFICATION  
IN INFECTION  
PREVENTION**



# LTC-CIP Eligibility Guidelines

- Responsibility for the infection prevention and control programs/activities in a long-term care setting.
- 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 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 Recertification Overview



LTC-CIP 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 through retaking the LTC-CIP examination.

# Where in the world are LTC-CIPs?

- 7 countries represented
- 403 LTC-CIPs as of 1.4.24

<b>Country</b>	<b># of LTC-CIPs</b>
United States	287
Canada	105
Saudi Arabia	5
Egypt	2
United Arab Emirates	2
Jordan	1
India	1

Question  
for our  
panelists:

How should I decide  
if I should take the  
CIC or LTC-CIP?



# CBIC Resources

- Exam Prep Materials: <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/Exam-Prep-Resources.htm>
- CBIC Webinars: <https://www.cbic.org/CBIC/News-and-Media.htm>
- Study Groups: Check with local APIC/IPAC Canada Chapters

# Contact Information

## General Information

[info@cbic.org](mailto:info@cbic.org)

202-454-2625

Executive Director, Jessica Dangles



[jdangles@cbic.org](mailto:jdangles@cbic.org)