

Elimination of 2 year practice requirement

CBIC members voted unanimously to eliminate the 2-year practice requirement for taking the initial certification examination. The initial examination will still be aimed at the 2-year Infection Preventionist (IP) actively employed in infection prevention. Infection Preventionists who have recertified this year will notice a change in the wording on their certificates. The phrase "Board Certified in Infection Prevention and Control" replaces the previous wording as a step toward congruency with the changes made by APIC this past summer.

CBIC receives many questions about why the certification examination is required every 5 years rather than through the use of continuing education. Continuing education is not the same as competency; competence is an ongoing process requiring repeated measurement. There are advances in treatment and technology we must be familiar with and no oversight system exists to ensure continued growth in knowledge, skills, and performance

Our practice is changing at warp speed and we find we must continually reassess and update our knowledge of what is included in our day-to-day activities related to infection prevention and control. Due to the evolving nature of our work, CBIC is considering soliciting your participation in a Practice Analysis during 2009. The importance of your participation in this project cannot be overemphasized because the findings of the Practice Analysis are used to develop the certification examination questions.

During 2009, I encourage you to consider taking the certification examination. As always, I also encourage chapters to recognize and celebrate their chapter members who have been certified.

February 2009: A New Web-Based Self-Achievement Recertification Exam

A new SARE exam for recertification is developed and released every other year. The next SARE will be released in February 2009 and will be web based. The eighth edition of the SARE will no longer be available in a paper-and-pencil format. The technology of hand scoring the paper and pencil answer sheets has become obsolete.

You will be able to enter and exit the exam as many times as you wish and will be able to access the exam from any computer. CBIC encourages you to purchase the SARE as early in the year as possible. An updated Candidate Handbook will be available with the new web-based SARE information and instructions by early 2009 via the CBIC web site or by calling the Executive Office at (913) 895-4607. Please contact the CBIC Executive Office for any additional questions.