

Certification UPDATE

Fall 08

Keeping BONENT Members Informed

First Technician to Take BONENT Computer Based Testing (CBT)

All the coordinated work by the BONENT Board of Directors, Exam Committee, the staff at the Executive Office in Washington DC and the staff at the testing organization to develop Computer Based Testing (CBT) for all three BONENT exams (CHT, CHN, CPDN), came to fruition on October 1, 2008, the date that the CBT became available.

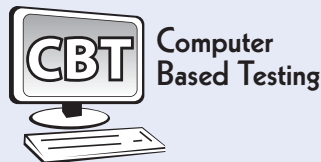


Heidi Scott, CHT

Heidi Scott a dialysis technician at Fresenius Medical Care in Toledo, Ohio, was the first person to take the CHT exam – and passed. Congratulations Heidi!

Read the interview below with Heidi which gives you an insight into CBT and the BONENT certification process from an applicant's point of view.

How did you find out about the new BONENT Computer Based Testing? Our Fresenius educator informed all the employees of this new option at BONENT.



How did you decide between CBT and PPE? I thought it would be less stress, by only seeing one question on the screen.

How long did you study for the exam? I studied for two months. I knew this was not just a competency test, but a valued certification for my job, so I put the effort into it that was needed.

How was the application process? It was easier than I thought. I thought the part about requiring a password for the computer would be complicated, but it definitely wasn't.

Was the exam proctor helpful in getting you started? Yes.

Did you quickly know what to do on the computer? You really don't need too many instructions. It's pretty straight-forward. You see one question at a time on the screen and go to the next question or the previous question whenever you want.

Was anything distracting during the exam? Having the clock on the screen kept me reminded about the time left to finish.

After taking the exam, did you feel that you were well prepared? I did feel that I was well prepared, but it was a hard exam.

Overall, how was the CBT experience? I liked it because I could go back to each question that I hadn't completed. I also was able to find out my score immediately at the end of the exam.

Would you recommend the BONENT CBT to other dialysis technicians and nurses? Yes, especially if you're short on time to certify for your job.

How do you now feel about having a BONENT CHT certification behind your name? Much better! I was able to keep my job. Passing the BONENT CHT exam makes me feel smart and now I am more confident when I am working.

Lapsed and Expired Members Can NOW Re-Instate Their Certification!

At the recent meeting of the BONENT board of directors, several significant items were approved for immediate implementation as of November 10, 2008. With the introduction, this past October, of Computer Based Testing (CBT) in almost 175 locations, BONENT continues to improve service to its membership and to those in dialysis wishing to have the coveted BONENT credentials behind their name.

Lapsed Certification

BONENT members who let their certification lapse within 12 months of their certification expiration date and wish to recertify can:

- Pay the \$100 Lapsed Certification Fee
- Pay any outstanding Annual Certification Fees and
- Submit:
 - 40 contact hours, or
 - Use the one-time Waiver, which allows you to automatically re-certify without submitting contact hours.

Expired Certification

If a nurse or technician has allowed their BONENT certification to expire from one to eight years after the certification expiration date, and wish to reinstate their certification, they can:

- Submit 40 contact hours from the past four years and
- Pay the \$200 Expired Certification Fee

You can find the Recertification Booklet and Recertification Application form, in the Recertification section of the BONENT web site.

Certification UPDATE

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Nursing & Technology



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're Assisting Exam Candidates & Members

The management of renal failure patients has become increasingly complex, requiring the use of highly skilled personnel. The challenge is to seamlessly integrate the skills of these professionals to improve patient outcomes. The New CMS regulations have addressed issues relating to achieving and maintaining competency of the dialysis technicians.

The role of the dialysis technician cannot be underscored, since they directly impact each dialysis therapy session. The primary goal of the BONENT organization is to position ourselves strategically, to assist prospective candidates meet the new qualifications so that they acquire and keep their positions.



RJ Picciano
President

Board Helps Members with Lapsed Certification

At our recent board meeting held in Charleston South Carolina, it was approved that members who have had their certification lapsed from one to eight years can have their certification reinstated, if they pay a fee of \$200, and submit 40 contact hours of continuing education (dated within the last four years).

Consider Computer Based Testing (CBT)

To handle the increase in exam applications, BONENT started computer based testing (CBT) (see article on page 1). There are over 175 locations within the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Turkey. This is in addition to the usual 75 paper and pencil exam locations (PPE). I have also asked that our regional representatives schedule more exams in their area for 2009.

Visit our Web Site & Stay Up-To-Date

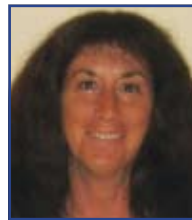
For more information on exam location and dates, legislation and the steps the organization has taken to help facilitate the certification of every practicing technician, log on to our web site www.BONENT.org. You'll be impressed with the amount of information available to you.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Welcome New Regional Representatives



Rebecca A. England, CHT
Springhill, TN



Nan S. Falk, CHT, PCT
Long Beach, CA



Kim Kearns, RN, BSN, CHN
Columbia, SC

We Need Regional Representatives

The states below do not have BONENT Regional Representatives.

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

Connecticut

Delaware

Hawaii

Idaho

Iowa

Kansas

Maine

Massachusetts

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Mexico

North Carolina

North Dakota

Rhode Island

South Dakota

Utah

Vermont

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming

Are you Interested? Visit www.BONENT.org for qualification and responsibilities.

Contact BONENT Executive Director Peter Anas at 202-462-1252 or via email at peter@BONENT.org

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE INTERVIEW

Paulette Sheeley, RN, BSN, CNN

BONENT Secretary/Treasurer

What is your current professional position and the name/city/state of your facility?

Director of Patient Care Services, Center for Dialysis Care, Mentor, Ohio

What is your background experience?

Twenty eight years in nursing. Nine years as an ICU nurse and 18 years as dialysis nurse.

What led you to this as a profession?

My family. I have an older sister who is a registered nurse and a younger sister who is a nurse attorney.

In what ways has membership in BONENT benefited you?

It has given me credibility and clinical expertise in hemodialysis nursing.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the Dialysis field?

Funding for all of the CMS changes and staffing issues. Funding all the changes with less reimbursement from CMS and private payers yet meeting all new changes in the conditions of coverage. Also continue to give quality care.

How have you, personally, kept up with changes in the field?

Yes, I've had to with all of the CMS changes.

Do you enjoy any hobbies?

Yes, quilting, biking and reading.

As the BONENT board member, what changes do you see in the life of a dialysis technician in the future?

Increased technical responsibility and accountability.

Are there any words of wisdom that you wish to share with fellow members?

Hang tough, keep up your certification, educate yourself, enjoy your work and enjoy your life.



MEMBER INTERVIEW

How Has BONENT Certification Helped You Professionally?



Rosa Watson, CHT
New Orleans, LA

Being BONENT-certified has helped me personally and professionally. My patients give me more respect. Coming to the NANT Conference gives me a chance to meet other BONENT-certified people.



Andrew Lleras, CHT
Roselle, NJ

I got certified by BONENT because it was the first professional organization in 1985 that certified technicians. It brought my job more respect from the patients and staff.



Joan Ula, CHT
Blanchardville, WI

When I got BONENT-certified I got a raise and more responsibility from my job. It also gave me personal growth.



Leslie O'Donell, CH
Towson, MD

I took the BONENT exam for myself because my mom was on dialysis. I also did it for the professional aspect of it. My co-workers look at me as more professional now.

Send Us Your Essay for the **Wesley Watkins Scholarship**

Deadline for submission:
September 30, 2009

\$500 awarded annually to as many as four
BONENT members in good standing.

New Topic for 2008-09
"What is the impact of your country's
government regulations on patient education
and safety in your facility?"

See www.BONENT.org for the 2008 Winning Essays



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2009 BONENT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS



Paper & Pencil Exam Schedule

**Schedule is subject to change. The Paper & Pencil Exam (PPE) schedule below is updated weekly. The PPE schedule below is a completely different list than the Computer-Based Testing (CBT) list.*

Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline	Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline
Jan. 11 8:00 a.m.	Baltimore, MD Good Samaritan Hospital	11/27/08	Feb. 11 1:00 p.m.	Las Vegas, NV Riviera Hotel	01/02/09
Jan. 11 9:00 a.m.	Columbia, SC Columbia Dialysis	11/27/08	Feb. 22 9:00 a.m.	Chicago, IL University of Chicago Medical Center	01/08/09
Jan. 11 9:00 a.m.	N. Miami Beach, FL Miami Regional Dialysis Center	11/27/08	Feb. 22 9:00 a.m.	Columbia, SC Columbia Dialysis	01/08/09
Jan. 11 8:00 a.m.	Warren, OH Center for Dialysis Care of Warren	11/27/08	Mar. 1 8:00 a.m.	Canton, OH Columbia Dialysis Units	01/15/09
Jan. 18 9:00 a.m.	Columbia, SC Columbia Dialysis	12/04/08	Mar. 8 9:00 a.m.	Columbia, SC Columbia Dialysis	01/22/09
Jan. 18 10:00 a.m.	Manchester, NH New England EMS Institute	12/04/08	Mar. 8 9:00 a.m.	New York, NY Richmond Kidney Center	01/22/09
Jan. 25 9:00 a.m.	Chicago, IL University of Illinois at Chicago, Dialysis	12/11/08	Mar. 15 9:00 a.m.	N. Miami Beach, FL Miami Regional Dialysis Center	01/29/09
Feb. 1 8:00 a.m.	Montrose, OH Conference Center	12/18/08	Apr. 19 8:00 a.m.	Cleveland, OH CDC - East	03/05/09
Feb. 8 9:00 a.m.	Columbia, SC Columbia Dialysis	12/24/08	Apr. 19 9:00 a.m.	Columbia, SC Columbia Dialysis	03/05/09
Feb. 8 1:00 p.m.	Greenville, SC Bernadine Center	12/24/08	Note: Exam list is updated weekly.		



Computer Based Testing Locations

The CBT list of locations is updated weekly. Please check www.BONENT.org for updates to the list. The CBT list of locations is completely different from the Paper & Pencil Exam (PPE) schedule above.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bonent.org to download a Candidate Handbook, an Application, or Host Forms.

See the BONENT Web Site: www.BONENT.org to discover quick tips and reminders about our:

- Certification Application
- Membership
- Exam Transfers & Withdrawals
- Exam Scores
- Recertification
- Refunds...& Much More!