

Certification UPDATE

Keeping BONENT Members Informed

BONENT Welcomes New Board Member

The BONENT Board of Directors welcomed its newest Board Member in March – Susan Critchfield, CHT of Rosamond, California. Learn more about her in this insightful interview.

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

I currently work per diem for Desert Cities Dialysis in Victorville Calif. I am a CHT. I also work one day a week for Plush Systems in Lancaster, California, as a Clinical Instructor. I have been doing that for about 4 years. I am awaiting the opening of Antelope Valley Kidney Institute where I will be working full time. Everything is ready to go, but we are waiting on DHS for a survey and we will have 50 patients to dialyze.

What is your background experience?

I have worked in Dialysis for about 5 years. All my experience has been with Desert Cities Dialysis and Plush Systems.

What led you to this as a profession?

My road to becoming a Dialysis Technician is as follows. I worked my entire career in Telecommunications. In late 1995 my husband went into Renal Failure due to Renal Artery Stenosis. At that time, the company I worked for was offering an early retirement program so I took advantage of that offer and went to "work" caring for my husband. That became a full time job as we all know. My husband passed away in early 1999. I returned to work in my previous field for another company. In 2001, when all the dot-coms failed, so did the company I was working for. When I tried to find a new position I found there were no jobs out there. I had met many great people while my husband was ill and I called upon a friend who owned a school that taught people to become Dialysis Technicians. I went to her school and became licensed in late 2002. I went to work at Desert Cities Dialysis and I've been there ever since. The friend who owns Plush Systems asked me to work for her as a clinical instructor in 2003. I began working for her on Fridays teaching the students to work in a clinic - stringing and priming the machines, removing needles, sticking patients, taking vitals and learning the difference between a graft and a fistula.

In what ways has membership in BONENT benefited you?

In March 2006 I sat for and passed my BONENT exam. I feel that having that certification has made me a far better technician. First of



BONENT Board member Dennis Schell and President RJ Picciano (right) welcome new Board member Susan Critchfield, CHT (center).

all, just studying for the exam caused me to learn more about my field. Since I usually do not get involved with the water system, I had to really study for that part of the exam and found out how very important that is to the treatment we provide to our patients. Often times the other technicians I work with come to me with questions and I am always happy to give them the information they need. I feel that knowledge is key to our profession. My co-workers look up to me as I am the only technician in our facility that is certified through BONENT!

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

I feel that the biggest challenge we face today is the ever increasing patient load. We are all under pressure to be faster and better at what we do. This means that we have to be the best at what we do. Being the best requires study and knowledge. By being certified through BONENT we have to study for exams and keep up on our CEUs to keep our certification. This means we are forever increasing the knowledge in our field.

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

I subscribe to several industry magazines. I am a member of NANT and attend the yearly symposiums. I go to the NANT and BONENT web sites often and read articles posted on them. I also read any article I come across about dialysis or nephrology.

Do you enjoy any hobbies?

I recently bought a new mobile home and decorating and furnishing that has pretty much taken up my time. When I am able, I love to travel. Last year I went to Alaska for a 3-week land and sea cruise. In January of this year I went to the Grand Canyon for a week. I am planning a trip to the British Isles next year. I also try to scrapbook when I have time. That keeps the memories of my travels in some sort of order.

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

The words of wisdom I would have for my fellow members is to always study everything you can in your field. Never be afraid to ask a question. There is never a stupid question. Promote the BONENT exam to your co-workers. Work hard to make your employer recognize and reward the Technicians and Nurses who are certified through BONENT.

Certification UPDATE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

New Act Mandates Certification by 2009

Dear members,

Let me commend every one who has maintained their membership with organization. If you plan to continue in this specialty you should be aware that you form the core of the health care delivery team as dialysis centers continue to infiltrate the inner cities and suburban regions of the United States. The for-profit interest in hemodialysis funded by the Medicare end stage renal disease program has resulted in an influx of dialysis centers and the Senate and House of Representatives wants to improve the benefits to dialysis patients and ensure that they receive safe competent care. The House of Representatives and the Senate introduced The Kidney Care Quality and Education Act of 2007 on February 27, 2007. The bill was introduced by Rep. John Lewis in the House (H. R 1193) and Sen. Conrad Kent in the Senate (S. 691).



RJ Picciano
President

The Kidney Care Quality and Education Act calls for patient care dialysis technicians beginning January 1, 2009 to have completed formal training in the treatment of patients with kidney disease undergoing dialysis. They must also have a national recognized certification and be competent to provide dialysis related services. Beginning January 1, 2010 dialysis facilities will not be allowed to use temporary, per diem or leased personnel unless they meet the requirements mentioned above. The facilities will also be responsible for providing regular in service to ensure continued competence. If the bill passes the house and the senate and is enacted it will have far reaching implications on how care is delivered to dialysis patients. One of the pitfalls of the act is the maintenance of national certification. You will be kept posted on the activities of this act as it moves through the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Welcome New Regional Representatives



Andrew Lleras BA, CHT, CBNT
Terence Cardinal Cooke
Health Care Center
Roselle, NJ



John Larsen, CHT
Union Hospital
Westville, IN



Michael Anderson ADN, CHT
Western Technical College
El Paso, TX

See www.BONENT.org for the full list.

Send Us Your Essay

for the **Wesley Watkins Scholarship**

Awarded annually to as many as four BONENT members in good standing

2007 Topic:

“Cultural Diversity”

For More Information:

Visit www.BONENT.org/scholarships

Deadline:

All documents must be postmarked by September 30, 2007 to be considered.

BONENT EXHIBIT DRAWS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



BONENT President RJ Picciano, BA, CHT, OCDT congratulates David Fracalossi, CHT on receiving the Dennis Kennedy Award and the Mazzilli Family Award at the NANT conference in Atlanta.



Denise Moore and Celeste Sheets of Sinclair College, one of BONENT's Approved Programs.



BONENT Regional Representative Leissa Cmar, CHT and Board member Dennis Schell, CHT, OCDT.

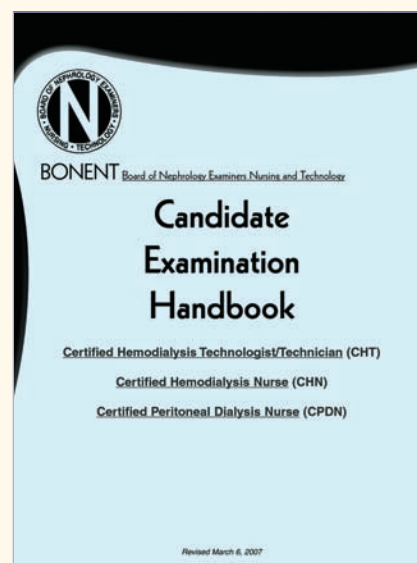
No Exam In Your Area?

Ask your facility if they are willing to host an exam. BONENT Certification Examinations may be offered at various locations throughout the United States and worldwide, upon request. Examinations can be administered anywhere, any time, a minimum of five qualified people wish to convene for an examination.

The candidates may be a combination of Hemodialysis Technologists/Technicians, Hemodialysis Nurses and Peritoneal Dialysis Nurses.

For more information on hosting an exam, please visit our website at www.BONENT.org and click on the Host Site button at the top.

NEW
Candidate Handbook
Now Available!
Revised 3-6-07



Download it at
www.BONENT.org

Need to Recertify This Year?

See our Recertification Tips (blue box on the right side of the home page at www.BONENT.org)

Paid Your Annual Certification Fee Yet?

Invoices have been mailed to members whose annual certification fee is due January through May. Please pay to avoid a late fee. If you have not received an invoice, please make sure that your address is updated with the BONENT Executive Office.

LETTERS

“It was easy to sign up for the test. Everyone at the BONENT Executive Office was very helpful and the website has a lot of useful information.”

Megan Spraggs
 Cincinnati, OH



**Board of Nephrology Examiners
Nursing & Technology**

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Moved?

Please fax or mail us your latest home address, phone and email to the BONENT address above.

Did you get our Email News?

To receive an E-newsletter (via email), email us your email address to membership@Bonent.org

2007 BONENT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline	Exam Dates	Location	App. Deadline
May 20 9:00 a.m.	Wilmington, NC DaVita Dialysis	04/05/07	Aug. 5 8:00 a.m.	Cleveland, OH Center for Dialysis Care	06/21/07
May 20 10:00 a.m.	Dover, NH Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	04/05/07	Aug. 5 9:00 a.m.	Staten Island, NY Richmond Kidney Center	06/21/07
May 24 3:00 p.m.	Lakewood, WA Clover Park Technical College	04/09/07	Sept. 9 8:00 a.m.	Toledo, OH Medical University of Ohio at Toledo	07/26/07
May 26 9:00 a.m.	Brentwood, TN DaVita, Inc.	04/11/07	Sept. 9 2:00 p.m.	Atlanta, GA Piedmont Hall	07/26/07
May 27 9:30 a.m.	East Chicago, IN St. Catherines Hospital	04/12/07	Sept. 11 9:00 a.m.	Fort Wayne, IN NRI Central Fort Wayne Dialysis Center	07/28/07
Jun. 9 12:00 p.m.	Pensacola, FL Baptist Medical Towers	04/25/07	Sept. 16 8:00 a.m.	Detroit, MI Greenfield Health System	08/02/07
Jun. 10 8:00 a.m.	Greensburg, PA Westmoreland Community Hospital	04/26/07	Sept. 30 12:00 p.m.	New York, NY Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center	08/16/07
Jun. 10 8:00 a.m.	Warren, OH Centers for Dialysis Care of Warren	04/26/07	Oct. 14 8:00 a.m.	Montrose, OH FMC Conference Center	08/30/07
Jun. 10 2:00 p.m.	Atlanta, GA Piedmont Hall	04/26/07	Nov. 4 8:00 a.m.	Toledo, OH Medical University of Ohio at Toledo	09/20/07
Jun. 24 12:00 p.m.	New York, NY Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center	05/10/07	Nov. 4 9:00 a.m.	Wilmington, NC Davita Dialysis - Wilmington	09/20/07
Jul. 8 8:00 a.m.	Columbus, OH Hood Dialysis	05/24/07	Dec. 2 8:00 a.m.	Columbus, OH Hood Dialysis	10/18/07
Jul. 21 9:00 a.m.	Auckland, NZ Lewis Lecture Theater, School of Medicine	05/14/07	Dec. 2 12:00 p.m.	New York, NY Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center	10/18/07

**Schedule is subject to change. 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**

You'll find out quick tips and reminders about our:

- Certification Application
- Membership
- Exam Transfers & Withdrawals
- Exam Scores
- Recertification
- Refunds