



# Certification UPDATE

Keeping BONENT Members Informed

## 2011 BONENT Scholarship Recipient

### What are the Professional Boundaries in the Dialysis Clinic?

Read the winning scholarship essay submission below as written by:

*Kathryn Owens, CHT*

*Port Angeles, WA*

*BONENT member since 1996*



Professional boundaries in the dialysis clinic is one of the most difficult and misunderstood topics that we face in caring for our dialysis patient.

I believe this is due, in part, to the fact that we see each other so frequently and we get to know one another quite well.

It is our job as health care providers in the dialysis unit to help our patients feel comfortable and safe, to educate, to encourage and to support them. It is not our job to be their best friend, complicate matters, or in any way make them feel we value one patient over another. A care giver may feel naturally drawn to certain patients. Each patient should be treated equally and fairly in spite of any

connection we might feel toward a particular patient.

Favoritism also should not be shown to the patients who are easier to get along with. When favoritism is shown, it may cause others to feel insecure and uncomfortable. Some examples of showing favoritism might be giving and receiving gifts or cards, becoming "friends" on Facebook, sharing phone numbers, and borrowing or loaning items. Experience proves that patients hear and see everything that goes on in the clinic, and they know when this takes place.

Yet another area where professionalism is often breeched is with ones co-workers. It is imperative to never speak badly of another staff member, especially in the hearing of a patient. When a patient is questioning the competence or judgment of a staff member, they should be directed to the proper person to whom they should report their concerns. Do not be enticed to give your opinions about their particular situation.

Patient confidentiality has received a lot of attention over the last few years. This is another area to maintain your professionalism

at all times. HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) regulations are very clear on the boundaries that should not be crossed in this regard. Each individual unit should have policies and procedures in place as well.

Dealing with loud, unhappy and sometimes hostile patients can also test ones professionalism. Approaching an upset patient in a quiet, calm, yet confident manner sometimes helps diffuse the situation. Some good responses to dealing with an upset patient might be listening without giving your input, and then knowing when to turn the situation over to your LMSW, Charge Nurse or clinic manager if it becomes apparent they are not deescalating. Do not let your emotions dictate your response. This usually does not help the situation.

We, as health care providers in the dialysis clinic, have the unique opportunity to take a difficult situation (being on dialysis) and to help our patients survive, and hopefully thrive, while maintaining a professional approach to this challenge. Are you up for it?

## Join Your Colleagues at the BONENT Mid-West Dialysis Seminar

Get

# 8

# CEs in 1 Day

For Your BONENT Recertification



Continuing  
Education  
PROGRAMS

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, July 15, 2012 – CHICAGO, IL

More Details  
Coming Soon!

# Certification UPDATE

The BONENT Certification UPDATE  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Help Grow Your Organization in 2012

I hope everyone had great holiday season! Now, it is time to look at the New Year to see what we can accomplish in 2012. 2011 was an excellent year for BONENT, but we are hoping for even more in 2012.

The BONENT Board of Directors met in the late fall and among many things discussed, agreed on the following: (See picture on pg. 3)

- We plan on having a BONENT presence at more national and regional meetings this year. So, if you know of a meeting where BONENT should be represented, let us know.
- We are nearing the completion of a total retooling of the BONENT CHT exam. It will be rolled out in the first half of 2012 (see below).
- We will be providing continuing education for our members and the rest of the Nephrology community (see below).



RJ Picciano  
President

### Encourage Nurses to Become Certified

Now that all patient care technicians must be certified according to CMS condition for coverage, it is time to encourage all RN's and LPN's to do the same. All certified technicians (and that is all technicians) should challenge the nurses they work with to achieve the same level of professionalism, that is to be nationally certified. Many nurses do not realize that BONENT has been certifying RN's and LPN's longer than any organization in Nephrology. The 2 BONENT certifications for nurses are Certified Hemodialysis Nurse (CHN) and Certified Peritoneal Dialysis Nurse (CPDN).

BONENT allows nurses to be certified in the area that they practice, not all of Nephrology Nursing. At BONENT, we treat all nurses as equal, not separating some as special, or more qualified. It is time that the professional that is in charge of day-to-day care of our patients be nationally certified. If you have any suggestions on how to make this happen, please share them with me.

### CE Coming Soon from BONENT: Webinars & Regional Seminars

Due to the CMS requirement for continued certification, there will be more people seeking continuing education opportunities so they can maintain their certification. As a service to our members, we have established the BONENT Continuing Education Program. We will be offering on-line CE opportunities, webinars and regional seminars.

The first BONENT Regional Seminar will be Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, IL – save the date! See the ad on page 1 and watch the website and your email for more details. If you want to be part of the process of developing these options contact Lyle Smith ([@lyle\\_bonent@msn.com](mailto:@lyle_bonent@msn.com)).

### Updated CHT Exam Coming: We Need Your Help

Over the last year, we have been going through the process of updating the CHT exam from the ground up. We started in August 2010, culminating in a new outline of the essential tasks of the patient care technician. We are now asking all certified BONENT members who are interested to help us write questions for this new exam. Contact the Exam Chair, Lyle Smith ([lyle\\_bonent@msn.com](mailto:lyle_bonent@msn.com)) if you are interested in writing questions. Please let him know in which topics you feel most qualified.

### 2012 Board Elections

There will be 2 positions open on the BONENT Board of Directors, effective October 1, 2012. Both seats are for members holding the CHT certification. So, start thinking about running or convincing a colleague who you think would be good to run. If you are a current member in good standing you can run. If you have been a Regional Representative or a committee member and you want to get more involved, you should think about running. There is information in our next newsletter on how to apply to get on the ballot. As always, BONENT is a volunteer organization that is NO stronger than its membership. So, think about stepping up and being a bigger part of BONENT!

## The BONENT Board of Directors above met for their fall meeting.

Read the article on page 2 for a summary.



**Rear:** Dennis Schell, Susan Critchfield, Peter Anas  
**Front:** Lyle Smith, Zelma Griffin, Paulette C. Sheeley, RJ Picciano, Carol Johnson.

## Board Election Results & Fall Meeting

Elections for two open seats were held this summer and we congratulate the members below who were re-elected to the board for a new 4-year term.



Dennis Schell CHT, OCDT  
 Maumee, Ohio



Lyle Smith RN, BSN, CPDN  
 Umatilla, Oregon

# BONENT Member Benefits Program

Visit [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org) & Click on Member Benefits Program

Auto • Entertainment • Pet Services • Health • Travel • Shopping & More!

**Get a discount on your pet's Rx**

Save an average of **15%** on brand-name and **55%** on generic pet drugs.

The card covers all household pets and livestock animals.

- Every pet qualifies
- Card is pre-activated
- No waiting periods
- Card never expires

For more information visit:  
[www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org) and click on Member Benefits Program link

## Cut Out Your Pet Discount Card

**BONENT**

Save an average of 15% on brand-name drugs and 55% on generic drugs

This is not Insurance

**Free Pet Discount Prescription Drug Card**  
 This Card is accepted at over 80% of the pharmacies in the US.

ID: 275345001  
 Rx PCN: PRX  
 RX GRP: NDN227  
 Rx BIN: 610210  
 Pharmacist help desk:  
 800-481-0605

**Pet Drug Card**

How the card works:  
 Present this card along with your prescription to receive a discount. The card is pre-activated and never expires. Use it over and over. The card covers all household pets and livestock animals.

Ask your vet for a written prescription when drugs for your pet are required. Most medications for animals are just different doses of the same medicine as prescribed for people and can be filled at your local pharmacy. Not every pharmacy is equipped to provide special compounding or animal-only medicines.

To find a local pharmacy nearby and to price medications, go to:  
[www.bonentlifestyle.com](http://www.bonentlifestyle.com)

The website will also show pricing for the most common animal only meds.  
 When special animal-only medication is required, contact our special Pet Drug Mail-Order Service. It can be reached at 800-866-0514.



**Board of Nephrology Examiners  
Nursing & Technology**

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**Remember to:**

Pay your Annual Certification Fees:

If you have not paid, BONENT cannot verify your certification to your:

- Employer • Potential Employer • State Board

**Get Your BONENT  
Pet Discount Drug Card!**

See page 3.



**2012 BONENT CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS**

Pass on to your colleagues & urge them to become BONENT certified.



**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
Mar. 24	Christiansted, VI University of Chicago Medical Center	02/08/12	Jun. 3	Cleveland, OH	04/19/12
Mar. 25	Lancaster, CA	02/09/12	Jun. 24	Syosset, NY	05/10/12
Apr. 1	Belflower, CA	02/16/12	Jul. 14	Chicago, IL	05/29/12
Apr. 8	Toledo, OH	02/23/12	Jul. 15	Toledo, OH	05/31/12
Apr. 29	Lancaster, CA	03/15/12	Jul. 29	Belflower, CA	06/14/12
Apr. 29	Syosset, NY	03/15/12	Sep. 9	Toledo, OH	07/26/12
May 6	Warren, OH	03/22/12	Sep. 30	Belflower, CA	08/16/12
May 27	Belflower, CA	04/12/12	<b>Note: Exam list is updated weekly.</b>		



**Computer Based Testing Locations**

*The CBT list of locations is updated weekly. Please check [www.BONENT.org](http://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](http://www.bonent.org) to download a Candidate Handbook, an Application, or Host Forms.

**See the BONENT Web Site: [www.BONENT.org](http://www.BONENT.org) to discover quick tips and reminders about our:**

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