What is Certification?

- The formal recognition of specialized knowledge, skills, and experience in nursing
- Demonstrated by achieving standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote health outcomes
- Certification assures the public a nurse has completed all eligibility criteria to earn a specific credential
- Promotes the development of specialty nursing by establishing minimum competency standards and recognizing those who have met the standards
- Certification is the formal process by which a certifying agency validates a nurse’s knowledge, skills, and abilities in a defined role and clinical area of practice, based on predetermined standards. Nurses achieve certification credentials through specialized education, experience in a specialty area, and a qualifying exam.
- Official recognition of achievement, expertise, and clinical judgement.
- Mark of Excellence that requires continued learning and skill development to maintain

Why Certify?

- Credentialing advances the profession of nursing by both encouraging and recognizing professional achievement
- Protects the public
- Identifies individuals with certain knowledge and skills
- Assures consumers that professionals have met standards of practice
- Demonstrates an individual’s commitment to a profession and to lifelong learning
- Provides a sense of pride and professional accomplishment

Certification in oncology nursing can....

- Validate your specialized knowledge
- Increase your confidence in your abilities
• Contribute to your personal satisfaction
• Demonstrate your commitment to your specialty and your patients

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation
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Pittsburgh, PA 15275
877-769-ONCC
412-859-6104
412-859-6168 (fax)

• E-mail: oncc@oncc.org
• Web site: www.oncc.org
• ONCC’s testing agency is Pearson VUE
  • www.pearsonvue.com
• Type of Oncology Certification
  • Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN)

Test Dates, Application Deadlines and Fees

• Testing in the US/Canada Only
• January 2 - December 31, 2019
• No Deadline dates-Submit an application, fees, and all required documentation, and receive your Authorization to Test within four weeks if you are eligible. A 90-day period will be provided for you to schedule an appointment and take the test.

• ONS/APHON Member $296
• Nonmember $416
• ONS/APHON Member: Age 65+ $225
• Nonmember: Age 65+ $315
Candidates who apply after September 1 will be assigned a 90-day testing period that begins before the end of 2019; however, the 90-day period may extend into 2020. Nurses who wish to take the test before the end of 2019 should plan accordingly.

Note: No tests will be administered outside North America in 2019.

Overview of OCN® Exam

ONCC examinations are administered by computer-based testing at nearly 300 Pearson Professional Centers

- The OCN Test consists of 165 multiple-choice items (a question or incomplete statement followed by four answers or completions. Of those, 145 items count toward the candidate’s score and 20 are "pretest" or experimental items
- Candidates will have a three hour testing session, which includes 10 minutes for a computer-based testing tutorial and 5 minutes for an exit survey

Please note that only generic drug names are used on ONCC tests

Eligibility

- A current, active, unrestricted RN license at the time of application and examination
- A minimum of two years (24 months) of experience as an RN within the four years (48 months) prior to application
- A minimum of 2,000 hours of adult oncology nursing practice within the four years (48 months) prior to application
- Completed a minimum of 10 contact hours of continuing nursing education in oncology or an academic elective in oncology nursing within the three years (36 months) prior to the application
- The contact hours must have been provided or formally approved by an accredited provider or approver of continuing nursing education
- Up to five (50%) of the 10 required oncology nursing contact hours may be accredited CME in oncology
OCN® Test Content Outline

I. Care Continuum - 19%

• A. Health promotion and disease prevention (e.g., high-risk behaviors; preventive health practices)

• B. Screening and early detection

• C. Navigation

• D. Advance care planning (e.g., advance directives)

• E. Epidemiology
  o Modifiable risk factors (e.g., smoking, diet, exercise, occupation)
  o Non-modifiable risk factors (e.g., age, gender, genetics)

• F. Survivorship
  o Rehabilitation
  o Recurrence concerns
  o Financial concerns
  o Employment concerns
  o Insurance concerns
  o Family and social support concerns
  o Sexuality concerns

• G. Treatment-related considerations
  o Delayed-onset side effects
  o Chronic side effects
  o Secondary malignancies
  o Follow-up care

• H. End-of-life care
  o Grief
  o Bereavement
  o Hospice care
  o Caregiver support
  o Interdisciplinary team
  o Pharmacologic comfort measures
  o Non-pharmacologic comfort measures
II. Oncology Nursing Practice — 17%

- A. Scientific basis
  - Carcinogenesis
  - Immunology
  - Clinical trials (e.g., research protocols)

- B. Site-specific cancer considerations
  - Pathophysiology
  - Common metastatic locations
  - Diagnostic measures
  - Prognosis
  - Classification
  - Staging
  - Histological grading

- C. Scope, standards, and related issues
  - Standards of care (nursing process)
  - Legal (including documentation)
  - Accreditation (e.g., The Joint Commission)
  - Self-care (e.g., managing compassion fatigue)

- D. Standards of professional performance
  - Ethics (e.g., patient advocacy)
  - Education
  - Evidence-based practice (e.g., Putting Evidence Into Practice (PEP) guidelines) and research
  - Quality of practice
  - Communication
  - Leadership
  - Collaboration
  - Professional practice evaluation
  - Resource utilization
  - Environmental health (e.g., safety, personal protective equipment, safe handling)

III. Treatment Modalities — 19%

- A. Surgery

- B. Blood and marrow transplant

- C. Radiation therapy

- D. Chemotherapy
• E. Biotherapy
• F. Immunotherapy
• G. Vascular Access Devices (VADs) for treatment administration
• H. Targeted Therapy

IV. Symptom Management and Palliative Care — 23%

• A. Etiology and patterns of symptoms (acute, chronic, late)
• B. Anatomical and surgical alterations (e.g., lymphedema, ostomy, site-specific radiation)
• C. Pharmacologic interventions
• D. Complementary and integrative modalities (e.g., massage, acupuncture, herbal supplements)
• E. Palliative care considerations
• F. Alterations in functioning:
  o Hematologic
  o Immune system
  o Gastrointestinal
  o Genitourinary
  o Integumentary
  o Respiratory
  o Cardiovascular
  o Neurological
  o Musculoskeletal
  o Nutrition
  o Cognition
  o Energy level (i.e., fatigue)
V. Oncologic Emergencies — 12%

- A. Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)
- B. Syndrome of Inappropriate Antidiuretic Hormone Secretion (SIADH)
- C. Sepsis (including septic shock)
- D. Tumor lysis syndrome
- E. Hypersensitivity
- F. Anaphylaxis
- G. Hypercalcemia
- H. Cardiac tamponade
- I. Spinal cord compression
- J. Superior vena cava syndrome
- K. Increased intracranial pressure
- L. Obstructions (bowel and urinary)
- M. Pneumonitis
- N. Extravasations

VI. Psychosocial Dimensions of Care — 10%

- A. Cultural, spiritual, and religious diversity
- B. Financial concerns (including available resources)
- C. Altered body image
- D. Learning styles and barriers to learning
- E. Social relationships and family dynamics
- F. Coping mechanisms and skills
- G. Support
  - Patient (i.e., individual and group)
- Caregiver (including family)

- H. Psychosocial considerations
  - Anxiety
  - Loss and grief
  - Depression
  - Loss of personal control

- I. Sexuality
  - Reproductive issues (e.g., contraception and fertility)
  - Sexual dysfunction (physical and psychological effects)
  - Intimacy
Develop a study plan

- Topics, timeline, resources
- Recognize your learning style
- Schedule regular times to study- 1 hour increments
- Cramming is counterproductive
- Focus on general material – most of the material is basic and does not require constant updating
- It can take up to 6-12 months for new information to be incorporated into test questions

ONCC Practice Tests

- ONCC web-based Practice Tests simulate the testing experience and help you to become familiar with the types of items found on ONCC examinations. They may also help candidates assess their strengths and weaknesses in subject areas covered on the examinations.
- Each Practice Test includes a set of 50 items or questions. The same 50 items will appear each time a test is used, although they may be presented in a different order. You may take the Practice Test as often as you wish during the allotted time period. This tests must be completed online, there are no paper tests.

- **Free Practice Tests**: There are 50 items on each test. You may use these tests as often as you like. These tests must be completed online. Like all ONCC Practice Tests, the items on the free Practice Test do not change each time it is used.

- **Purchase Practice Tests**: Additional 50-item Practice Tests can be purchased. These tests must be completed online. There are no hard-copy tests. Purchasers will have access to purchased tests for 14 days, and may take the test as often as desired during the 14-day period. The same 50 items will appear on the test each time it is used.

- [https://practicetests.oncc.org/FreeTests.aspx](https://practicetests.oncc.org/FreeTests.aspx)
Test-Taking Strategies

Practice, Practice, Practice

• Take practice tests- timed at two minutes for each question- goal 9 of 10 answers correct
• Then timed at 1.5 minutes for each question- goal of 9 of 10 answers correct
• Then timed at 1 minutes for each question- goal of 9 of 10 answers correct
• Using practice tests in a timed environment helps reduce anxiety when it’s time for the real thing
• Helps facilitate working at a steady pace

The night before the exam

• Know test site location, make a “dry run”
• Get a good night’s sleep
• Eat sensibly- avoid alcohol
• Assemble required materials: ID, admission card
• Know the exam room rules: no water or food, no phones

TIME TO PUT THE BOOKS AWAY

The day of the exam

• Wear comfortable, layered clothing
• Eat breakfast, avoid too much caffeine
• Get there early
• Wear a watch, keep track of time
• No cell phones!
• Think positively

BREATHE
OCN Review Resources
• Primary References