



Individual Learning Needs Assessment FAQs

The ILNA Renewal Method

Who can use the ILNA renewal method?

Certified nurses who will be renewing OCN[®], AOCNP[®], AOCNS[®], CBCN[®], or CPHON[®] credentials beginning in 2016 may use the ILNA renewal method. Therefore, it affects candidates who attain or renew any of these credentials in 2012 or later.

Why can't AOCN and CPON certified nurses renew by the ILNA method?

Because there are no current test blueprints on which to base an assessment for the AOCN[®] and CPON[®] credentials, candidates who will be renewing those credentials will earn 100 professional development points. For AOCN[®] candidates, 65 of those points must be of oncology content. For CPON[®] candidates, 80 of the points must be of pediatric content. Of those 80 points, 50 must be of pediatric oncology content.

How should I renew my certification until 2016?

From 2012 through 2015, nurses will continue to renew certification by the current renewal options. These include Option 1 (Practice hours + ONC-PRO), Option 2 (Practice hours + Testing), and Option 3 (ONC-PRO + Retesting).

If ILNA begins in 2016, why is it important to learn about it now?

ILNA will become a renewal method in 2016. Because certification is valid for four years, the first group of candidates who will use it will be nurses who attain or renew OCN[®], AOCNP[®], AOCNS[®], CBCN[®], or CPHON[®] certification beginning in 2012. Therefore, nurses who attain or renew certification in 2012 or later should become familiar with the ILNA requirements now so they will have adequate time to prepare for renewal.

The Learning Needs Assessment

How will I know when I may complete the assessment?

ONCC will notify you when you are eligible to take the assessment, and provide you with the information you will need to log on and access your assessment. Candidates are encouraged to complete the assessment as early as possible during the renewal cycle, to provide time to earn the professional development points needed for renewal.

Where do I take the assessment?

You may complete the learning needs assessment from any computer with an internet connection, such as a computer in the home or workplace.

How many opportunities will I have to complete the assessment?

Once you log in to the assessment, you should be prepared to complete it in one sitting. For security purposes, you will not be able to return to it another time. However, keep in mind it is not a test. It is an assessment that will help you identify your learning needs.

If I don't complete the learning needs assessment can I still renew my certification?

Yes. Candidates who don't complete the assessment may renew by submitting a minimum of 100 ILNA points, based on the weighting of the respective test blueprint categories, or by successfully retesting.

How are my strengths and weaknesses determined on the assessment?

The learning needs assessment is based on the subject areas in the corresponding test blueprint. It contains items that are similar to test items. Using principles of testing, the ONCC Board of Directors has set the minimum performance level a candidate must reach to demonstrate an acceptable knowledge level in each subject area. Candidates whose performance in any subject area is below that minimum level will need to complete professional development activities in that area.

Earning Professional Development Points

When can I begin earning ILNA points for renewal?

If you are using your certification test score report to identify the number and subjects in which you should earn points, you can begin earning the points immediately after receiving your score report. The test score report can be used for the first renewal cycle after passing a test.



Individual Learning Needs Assessment FAQs

If you are completing the online learning needs assessment, you can begin earning points after you complete the assessment and receive the results. It's to your advantage to take the assessment as early as possible in your certification cycle, to provide plenty of time to earn the required points.

Does Continuing Education need to be accredited to count for ILNA points?

Yes. Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) must be formally approved for contact hours by an accredited provider or approver of nursing continuing education. You can find a list of acceptable approval bodies at www.oncc.org/TakeTest/TestInformation/Providers. Continuing Medical Education (CME) also must be accredited.

How do I know if the professional development topics I choose match the subject areas in which I need to earn points?

If the title of the program isn't an easily recognizable match between the topic and the required subject area, look for key words/concepts in the program description or content outline. Each test blueprint contains sub-content areas that can help you identify whether a program or activity fits the subject area. You can find the current test blueprints at www.oncc.org. You should keep the program descriptions/outlines of any programs you complete for ILNA points, in the event there are questions about the content of a program.

Can all of my ILNA points be earned in continuing education?

Yes. You are not required to earn any specific type of points. The options include Continuing Nursing Education, Continuing Medical Education, Academic Education, Publications, and Presentations.

I lost my score report. How can I find out the categories in which I need to earn points?

You can contact ONCC to obtain this information.

The minimum number of ILNA points needed for renewal is 25; what is the maximum that might be needed?

The maximum number of points any candidate would need to earn would be 100, based on the weighting of the test blueprint.

What if my ILNA application and points are not accepted?

Candidates who are uncertain their activities will be accepted for ILNA points may submit more than the required number of points. In addition, candidates who submit their applications and ILNA logs well in advance of the application deadline date will have time to submit or earn additional points. Prior to submission, candidates should ensure their activities fit the appropriate subject areas, and that any continuing education points were approved for contact hours by an acceptable provider or approver of continuing education.

Submitting the Points & Application

How will I submit my ILNA points?

Online logs for recording ILNA points will be available through the ONCC web site. These logs will provide a mechanism for candidates to record information about the professional development points they have earned. Candidates should complete the ILNA Logs as they earn points, and submit the logs when it is time to apply for certification renewal. Candidates should not submit copies of certificates or other documentation of activities, unless requested to do so by ONCC. Candidates should retain all CE certificates and other forms of documentation (e.g., grade reports, copies of publications, programs listing the candidate as a presenter, program descriptions/outlines), in the event they are requested by ONCC.

How are ILNA point values determined?

One contact hour of continuing nursing education or continuing medical education will equal one ILNA point. One academic credit will equal 15 ILNA points. ILNA points for presentations and publications will vary. More information about point values will be posted on the ONCC web site.

Do you have questions about the ILNA method that are not answered here? Contact ONCC at 877-769-6622 or oncc@oncc.org.

ONCC: 11/2011