



## Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation

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January 31, 2012

Dear Certified Colleague:

You may have heard about a new method for certification renewal that ONCC will be using in just a few years. The Individual Learning Needs Assessment (ILNA) method will become the primary certification renewal method in 2016.

I've enclosed a pamphlet that briefly describes the ILNA process. More detailed information is also available on the ONCC web site at [www.oncc.org/ILNA](http://www.oncc.org/ILNA). Because this new renewal method will affect all nurses who either attain or renew ONCC certification starting in 2012, I encourage you to become familiar with the information now.

I'm confident you'll find the ILNA method to be both meaningful and easy. But you may be wondering about the reason for changing the renewal process. Because a primary purpose of certification is to protect the public, there is a need to more rigorously ensure the continuing competency of health care providers.

In response, the ONCC Board of Directors convened a task force to research methods for recertification among a wide range of health professions, consider recent Institute of Medicine reports, and solicit input from healthcare consumers. Once the initial research was completed, a panel was convened to develop specific strategies to improve the rigor of ONCC recertification methods. The panel consisted of practicing certified nurses, first line nurse managers, staff development and academic educators, and consumer advocates. The method recommended by the panel, and accepted by the Board, is the ILNA renewal method. Several other specialty nursing certification organizations are undertaking similar efforts to make their renewal processes more meaningful as well.

Oncology nursing certification indicates that a nurse has comprehensive knowledge of the full spectrum of cancer care. Although some oncology nurses may work in a more narrow, subspecialty area, the ILNA renewal method will assure the public, employers, and colleagues that oncology certified nurses have maintained the broad knowledge base represented by their credential.

More communications about the ILNA renewal method will be distributed as we rollout this new process. To be sure you are kept up to date, please make sure ONCC has your correct email address and mailing address. Please notify ONCC immediately if your contact information changes. Also, periodically check the ONCC web site for new information.

The ONCC Board is committed to maintaining the integrity of our certification credentials, and the specialized nursing knowledge they represent. I hope you will join us in encouraging the continuing competency of oncology certified nurses through certification renewal.

Thank you for your commitment to professional nursing and oncology care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Visser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo Visser, RN, BSN, OCN®

President, ONCC Board of Directors