



Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation Will Add Hematology to Pediatric Certification Program

Pittsburgh, PA – September 3, 2008 – The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) has announced that it will offer the Certified Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurse examination beginning in 2010. The decision to offer a pediatric certification examination that encompasses both oncology and hematology is based on the results of a comprehensive role study of pediatric oncology nursing practice conducted earlier in 2008. The results of the role study indicated that hematology is a significant component of pediatric oncology nursing practice nationwide.

According to Vicki Norton, RN, BSN, OCN[®], president of the ONCC Board of Directors, “The Certified Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurse certification will meet a need that has been clearly expressed to ONCC by pediatric oncology nurses whose practice includes hematology, and substantiated by the scientific findings of the most current role study. The mission of ONCC is to provide certification to enhance patient care and professional practice, and the addition of this program will further that mission.”

The examination will be available in early 2010. To be eligible to take the test, candidates must have:

- Current, active, unrestricted RN license at the time of application and examination, and
- Minimum of one year (12 months) of experience as an RN within the three years (36 months) prior to application, and

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- Minimum of 1,000 hours of pediatric oncology or hematology nursing practice within the two and one-half years (30 months) prior to application, and
- Completion of a minimum of 10 contact hours of continuing nursing education in oncology or hematology within the three years (36 months) prior to application.

Nurses who are successful in completing the multiple-choice examination will be awarded the CPHON credential (pronounced see-pon). CPHON certification will be valid for four years, after which it may be renewed by the Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option (ONC-PRO) or by testing.

According to Cynthia Miller Murphy, MSN, RN, CAE, executive director of ONCC, “A diverse group of experts in pediatric hematology/oncology are currently working to define the content of the examination to ensure it matches current practice. The content will be published in the form of a test blueprint on the ONCC Web site later in 2008.”

The current pediatric oncology certification examination, the Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON[®]) examination, will be available to candidates through 2009. Nurses who hold the CPON[®] credential will be able to renew that credential by ONC-PRO for as long as desired, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. Nurses who are certified as CPON[®]s and who wish to obtain the new CPHON credential must meet the eligibility criteria for initial CPHON certification and pass the test. Nurses who hold the CPON[®] credential will not be able to use the CPHON credential without successfully completing the CPHON examination.

ONCC also offers basic certification and advanced certification programs that focus on adult oncology, including role-specific advanced certifications for oncology nurse practitioners and oncology clinical nurse specialists. ONCC will offer a Certified Breast Care Nurse (CBCN) examination beginning in February 2009. Learn more about ONCC certifications at www.oncc.org.

ONCC, an affiliated organization of the Oncology Nursing Society, administers and evaluates programs for certification in oncology nursing.