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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ONCC Announces 81% Success Rate for Recent OCN[®] Test

Pittsburgh, PA – September 8, 2003 – 696 nurses who took the OCN[®] (Oncology Certified Nurse) Test during the July 21-26, 2003 computer-based testing interval, passed the examination and received certification as OCN[®]s, according to Julie Ponto, RN, MS, AOCN[®], APRN-BC, president of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation. This number represents 81% of the 862 nurses who took the test. There are now 19,596 nurses currently certified as OCN[®]s.

The OCN[®] Test is designed to assess the basic oncology nursing knowledge of the professional nurse. The content of the examination is based on content from eight areas, including quality of life, protective mechanisms, gastrointestinal and urinary function, cardiopulmonary function, oncologic emergencies, scientific basis for practice, health promotion, and professional performance.

OCN[®] certification is available to nurses who have a current, active, unrestricted RN license, a minimum of 12 months experience as an RN within the three years immediately prior to application, and a minimum of 1,000 hours of oncology nursing practice within the 30 months immediately prior to application. Test applicants must also have completed ten contact hours of continuing education in oncology nursing or an academic elective in oncology nursing within the 30 months prior to application.

OCN[®] certification is valid for four years, after which nurses may renew their certification by taking the test, or by the Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option (ONC-PRO). ONC-PRO requires the renewal candidate to provide evidence of professional

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development by accruing points through continuing nursing education, continuing medical education, academic education, publications, presentations, or volunteer service.

The next administration of the OCN[®] Test will be offered during October 20-25, 2003, at more than 300 computer-based testing sites throughout North America. In 2004, the OCN[®] Test will be offered via computer-based testing during January 19-31, April 19-May 1, July 19-31, and October 18-30. A paper-and-pencil OCN[®] Test will be offered on April 28, 2004 in Anaheim, California, prior to the start of the Oncology Nursing Society Annual Congress.

For more information about oncology nursing certification, contact ONCC at 125 Enterprise Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1214, 877-769-ONCC (toll free), oncc@ons.org (e-mail), or visit the ONCC website at www.oncc.org.

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