



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ONCC Shortens Tests for OCN[®] and CPON[®] Certification

Pittsburgh, PA – June 24, 2004 – The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) Board of Directors has announced it will reduce the number of test items on the Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN[®]) and Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON[®]) Examinations. Beginning in January 2005, OCN[®] and CPON[®] Examinations will have 165 test items, rather than 225 items as on previous examinations. In keeping with the reduced number of questions, candidates will have two hours and forty-five minutes to complete the shorter examinations. Candidates will also have 15 minutes to complete a computer-based testing tutorial and an exit survey, for a total session time of three hours.

According to Julie Ponto, RN, MS, AOCN[®], APRN-BC, president of ONCC, “Our research indicates that the body of knowledge tested by each examination can be accurately measured in the shorter format. The psychometric properties of each examination ensure that the abbreviated tests are as reliable and valid as longer examinations.”

The Test Blueprints (content outlines) for both the OCN[®] and CPON[®] Examination will remain unchanged.

The OCN[®] Examination, which tests oncology nursing knowledge at the basic level, with a focus on adult care, will include 165 test items. Of those items, 145 will count toward the candidate’s score, and 20 items will be pretest questions that will not count toward the candidate’s score. Candidates will not know which items will be scored, and which items are pretest questions.

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The CPON[®] Examination tests knowledge in pediatric oncology nursing at the basic level. The new CPON[®] Examination will include 165 test items, of which 125 will count toward the candidate's score, and 40 will be pretest questions that will not count toward the candidate's score. Candidates will not know which of the items will be scored, and which are pretest questions.

In 2005, OCN[®] and CPON[®] Examinations will be offered by computer-based testing at more than 300 locations during quarterly, 12-day testing intervals in January, April, July, and October. Paper/pencil OCN[®] and CPON[®] Examinations will be offered on April 27, 2005 in Orlando, Florida, and at specially-arranged international test sites outside North America, pending a sufficient number of registrants.

Information about certification tests, including eligibility criteria and applications, can be found on the ONCC website at www.oncc.org. Information also will be in the *2005 Oncology Nursing Certification Bulletin*, which will be available in late summer 2004.

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

ONS is a professional organization of more than 30,000 registered nurses and other healthcare providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. The largest professional oncology association in the world, ONS maintains a Web site at www.ons.org.