Save Time and Paper With Online Renewal by Option 1

Susan Wozniak, MS, RN, OCN®

Online renewal is a process that has become easier with the advent of electronic computer-based Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option (ONC-PRO) logs and a little forethought. Not convinced? I’d like to share my story with you and hope that you can learn from my experiences.

My OCN® certification was due for renewal this year. I’m grateful that I can use Option 1 for renewal. This option requires meeting the criteria for current practice and the required ONC-PRO points. This was my third OCN® renewal using the ONC-PRO option. Four years ago, I sat down with my continuing nursing education (CNE) certificates and methodically recorded 100 hours of education on the ONC-PRO CNE Log. That was the day I decided that next time, I would be prepared.

To that end, I started an electronic ONC-PRO log in January 2005 on the ONCC Web site (http://www.oncc.org/oncpro/). What a time-saver! As I earned CNE contact hours and other ONC-PRO points, I recorded them in my log. This year, when I was ready to apply for renewal, I didn’t have to leaf through reams of paper like in times past. You can imagine my delight at my renewal experience. I saved paper and precious time.

When my certification renewal postcard came in the mail, I simply went to the ONCC Web site (http://www.oncc.org/), (See “Online Renewal,” page 3)

Board Establishes Scholarship to Honor Julie Earle

The ONCC Board of Directors has established a bachelor’s of science in nursing scholarship through the ONS Foundation in memory of Julie Earle, RN, BSN, OCN®.

In February, Earle, a radiation oncology nurse at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, suddenly passed away. She had been serving on the ONCC Board since June 2007. According to ONCC president, Vicki Norton, RN, BSN, OCN®, “Julie was a valued member of the Board of Directors. More importantly, she was a beloved friend to us and a respected colleague to all who knew her.”

Nurses who work in radiation oncology will be given priority to receive the awards. Anyone who would like to honor Earle’s memory by contributing to the scholarship fund may contact the ONS Foundation at 412-859-6163 or go to http://www.onsfoundation.org/Opportunities.shtml, and mention Earle’s name in conjunction with their donation.
Editor’s Message

Thanks for Making a Difference
Heather Mackey, RN, MSN, ANP-BC, AOCN®

Over the past five years, I have had the wonderful opportunity to serve as a member of the ONCC Certification News editorial board. A large part of that role involves meeting and talking with nurses about what they do on a daily basis to promote oncology nursing certification and advance the delivery of excellent cancer care. Hearing those stories can be both inspirational and quite humbling, and on behalf of the News’ editorial board, I want to thank each of you for not only what you do but also for sharing your stories with us and our readers.

This is my last issue as editor of the News. It has been an honor to work with such an amazing group of people dedicated to promoting and supporting oncology nursing care and certification. I have learned so much from you all and always will be grateful for this experience. I am excited that Janice Nuuhiwa, RN, MSN, CPON®, has agreed to serve as your new editor and know that she will help guide our News to greater heights. Thanks to Susan Bruce, RN, MSN, OCN®, Ashley Leak, RN, MSN, OCN®, and Susan Wozniak, RN, MSN, OCN®, and best wishes as they continue to serve on the editorial board. Each has such special gifts, and I can never thank them enough for all that they do for our organization and our profession.

Thank you to Michael Smart, RN, BSN, OCN®, who will be completing his term in May. I have so appreciated your sense of humor and admired your drive; the best of luck to you as you move on to new pursuits—I know that you will be successful in all that you do. Special thanks to Pam Asfahani for all the guidance, support, and patience that she has given us along the way—we couldn’t do it without you! And finally, (is that music playing in the background?) thanks to ONCC Executive Director Cyndi Miller Murphy, RN, MSN, CAE, the ONCC Board (past and present), and the ONS Periodicals Publishing Team for their support of the News over the past five years and all that they do to advance oncology nursing certification across the world.

Certification in oncology nursing makes a difference. Each of the over 27,000 certified oncology nurses makes a difference. Thank you all for all that you do to make a difference.

Advanced Practice Role Delineation Study Moving Forward

Michael Smart, RN, BSN, OCN®
Annette M. Parry Bush, RN, BSN, MBA, OCN®, ONCC Certification Programs Manager

Eight oncology nurse practitioners and eight oncology clinical nurse specialists participated in the advanced practice role delineation study (RDS) task force meeting held January 29–30, 2009, at the ONCC National Office. The purpose of the task force was to define the content domain areas for future versions of the AOCNP® and AOCNS® examinations.

During the two-day meeting, the task force defined the tasks and responsibilities essential to oncology nurse practitioner (NP) and clinical nurse specialist (CNS) practice as well as the knowledge necessary to competently perform in the roles. This information was incorporated into a survey that was distributed electronically to all AOCN®, AOCNP®, and AOCNS® certified nurses as well as to 273 oncology NPs and CNSs who are not certified.

Task force participants included Lynn Borstelmann, RN, MN, CHPN, AOCN®; Mary Elizabeth Davis, RN, MSN, AOCNS®; Rosaleen Duggan, RN, BSN, MS, AOCNS®; Jeanne Held-Warmkessel, MSN, RN, AOCN®, ACNS-BC; Michalene Kinser, RN, APRN-BC, AOCNS®, Marybeth Singer, MS, APN-BC, AOCN®, Susan Tavani-er, RN, APRN-CNS; Lenise Taylor, RN, OCN®, AOCNS®; Kristi Bowser, MSN, NP-C, AOCNP®; Tracy Broussard, RN, NP, AOCNP®; Janice Garza, RN, MSN, ANP, AOCNP®, Carla Jolley, RN, ARNP, MN, AOCN®, Charlene Ray, MSN, ANPC, AOCNP®, Raymond Scarpa, DNP, AOCN®, Jennifer Squires, RN, FNP, AOCNP®, and Nancy Washburn, MSN, APRN, BC, AOCNP®.
Chapter Certification Grants:  
Is There Funding in Your Future?

ONCC is offering Chapter Certification Grants to provide funding to Oncology Nursing Society and Association of Pediatric/Hematology Oncology Nurses (APHON) chapters to conduct activities or projects that encourage, support, and recognize certification of oncology nurses. ONCC will provide up to five grants that will be awarded this year, totaling up to $5,000. Priority for funding will be given to chapters that will provide matching funds; projects that can be repeated or sustained over a period of time; and projects that are creative and innovative. Funding is limited to one award per chapter.

Recipients of the grant funding will be required to submit a brief summary of their project outcomes. The information may be published in an effort to share ideas with other chapters.

Consider applying for a 2009 chapter certification award today! Applications are due June 1, 2009. Additional information can be found at http://www.oncc.org/awards/chapter.shtml.

Don’t miss out!

Renew Your Certification for Free in 2009 and for Life!

Five nurses who are due to renew their ONCC certification in 2009 will do it for free this year and for life. ONCC randomly will select five winners from renewal applications received by June 15, 2009. Each will receive a lifetime of free certification renewals by Option 1 (practice hours + Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option, or ONC-PRO).

Certified nurses who are due to renew their credential in 2009 are eligible. All complete renewal applications received by June 15, 2009, will automatically be entered (including 2009 renewal applications that already have been received). Candidates must include their completed application, ONC-PRO logs, and the renewal fee. Five winners will be chosen by computerized random selection, and their 2009 fee will be refunded.

Renew your credential today. Learn more at http://www.oncc.org/renewal/.

Online Renewal (continued from page 1)

clicked on the third button down on the left, “Certification Renewal,” and with credit card in hand, I completed the renewal application in less than five minutes. When the application came up on the computer screen, my personal information already was entered for me from my online profile. A few keystrokes later, I was done. After pressing the submit button, I simply toggled over to my ONCC electronic ONC-PRO log to complete the process. The log had been calculating my ONC-PRO points all along. Here was a journal of my educational activities as well as a record of my oncology volunteer leadership service hours, publications, and presentations completed during the last four years. It was amazing how many ONC-PRO points I had accumulated. All I had to do then was click on the log submit button. What was more amazing was that the entire process took only minutes to complete.

Electronic ONC-PRO logs are nurse and environment friendly. If you don’t have an electronic ONC-PRO log, start yours today. When you’re due to renew your credential, you won’t regret a minute of the time you’ll save. For additional information on your renewal options, please visit http://www.oncc.org/renewal/.
Meet Kelly O’Neill: ONCC Advocate From the Midwest!
Janice Nuuhiwa, RN, MSN, CPON®

Kelly O’Neill, RN, BSN, CPON®, has been the education coordinator on the 4-Henson Hematology/Oncology unit at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO, for the past four years and has recruited 16 CPON®-certified nurses over the last two years. How did she do it? She did it with a great deal of institutional support and a personal commitment to promoting CPON® certification.

O’Neill, a pediatric hematology/oncology nurse for almost 10 years and a nurse at Children’s Mercy Hospital for the last eight and a half years, became CPON® certified in 2002. When asked why she pursued CPON® certification, O’Neill responded, “I wanted to become certified for multiple reasons. First, I saw it as a challenge to myself, to prove how much I had learned.” She also referenced the impact certification has on patients and families. “I think patients and parents feel comforted knowing that their nurse is certified” says O’Neill, “and truly has knowledge of their disease, medications, and treatments.” She feels strongly that certification reflects a professional link to the specialty. O’Neill said achieving certification connected her with staff on a higher level and solidified her dedication to pediatric oncology.

Initially, she shied away from CPON® certification because of the complexity of the examination. She realized that worthwhile achievements usually do not come easy—rather, they should be something for which one has to work.

Becoming an ONCC Advocate has enhanced O’Neill’s role as the unit educator. She procures information and resources for candidates, helps answer questions, and assists with the paperwork. O’Neill credits strong institutional support as an essential component of encouraging certification. Historically, Children’s Mercy Hospital supported CPN (certified pediatric nurse) certification, which laid the groundwork for successfully promoting CPON® certification. O’Neill states, “The hospital administration makes it possible for so many staff members to become certified. I am merely the person nurses come to with questions. I help get the paperwork processed and encourage them along the way. Our hospital and management truly support nurses in their professional development.” The institution supports certification by offering financial support for initial certification, renewal, and by incorporating certification into multiple levels of their clinical ladder.

O’Neill identified her biggest Advocate challenge as getting certification information to staff. Sharing the benefits of certification and making the testing dates known to her colleagues are two major components of her awareness action plan. She also makes herself available for emotional support during test preparation, ensures that test references and preparation tools are available, and offers strategies to reduce test anxiety. Once a nurse obtains certification, his or her name is displayed on a unit plaque near the nurse’s station that highlights the names of all the certified nurses. Children’s Mercy Hospital also has a luncheon for certified nurses during nurse’s week in May and offers a small gift to certified nurses, including a pin that nurses can wear to show that they are certified.

As an ONCC Advocate, O’Neill encourages CPON®-certified nurses to commit to the rewarding process of recruiting and preparing others for the examination. “If you are passionate about something, then being an Advocate is not hard. If you feel strongly about the CPON® examination, and that staff can truly shine in their specialty and show off that specialty through certification, then become an Advocate. Being an Advocate allows you to help lead others.” O’Neill has most certainly lead others down a path of certification success. Thank you, Kelly, for your example of excellence in advocacy!

Board Evaluates Radiation Subspecialty Certification

The role delineation study (RDS) of radiation oncology nursing is near completion. The ONCC Board of Directors will review the results of the RDS, along with other data, to determine the feasibility of offering a specialty certification examination in radiation oncology nursing in the near future.

The Board will consider many factors such as the number of nurses who would take the certification examination, the ongoing pool of candidates over time, the costs of test development, and whether a unique and discreet body of knowledge for radiation therapy nursing has been identified. Watch future issues of the ONCC Certification News for updates.
Long Island Jewish Medical Center Promotes Certification

Mary McDonald, RN, MSN, OCN®, CNA-BC, & Mary Paul, RN, BSN, OCN®, Guest Contributors

Long Island Jewish Medical Center is a 477 bed tertiary teaching hospital situated along the Nassau/Queens border on Long Island, NY, and is part of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. Queens is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in the country and as such, so is the population they serve. The oncology division consists of an inpatient medical/oncology unit, where 36% of nurses are certified, and the Ambulatory Chemotherapy and Transfusion Unit (ACT), where 100% of the nurses are ONCC-certified.

Long Island Jewish Medical Center’s certified nurses are recognized at a Center of Excellence celebration, which is held annually during nurse’s week. Additionally, the Chief Nursing Officer invites all newly certified nurses to a celebratory lunch that is held that same week to recognize their achievement. Within the oncology division, the Chief announces and recognizes all nurses who obtained certification that year at the annual holiday celebration. Additionally, certifications are recognized and celebrated within the unit when they are achieved.

The hospital system provides a bonus of $1200 annually to staff nurses who are certified. Because of the bonus structure, the medical center does not pay for certification renewal, except for managers who are ineligible for the bonus.

The administration at the medical center is fully supportive of educational opportunities for nurses. The center is fortunate to have a special fund for oncology nurses that supports expenses for attendance at the ONS Annual Congress. They have been able to send six nurses per year to Congress for the past several years. They offer a chemotherapy review course for the entire health system as well as an annual oncology nursing conference, a breast cancer conference, the oncology core curriculum, the radiation/oncology course, and the chemotherapy course as part of its educational offerings. Nurse attendance at these courses is fully paid for by the medical center.

Upon hire, nurses are made aware that certification is an expectation. The time frame required for nurses to obtain certification varies based upon a nurse’s experience level. Certification also is highly encouraged to help nurses advance along their clinical ladder status. The Medical Center has a three tiered clinical ladder program, and certification in one’s specialty is awarded twenty points. Achievement of the clinical ladder also is rewarded financially.

Congratulations to Long Island Jewish Medical Center, and thank you for all that you do to promote oncology nursing certification!
Institutions Recognized for Certified Nursing Staff

ONCC recently awarded 47 recognition plaques to organizations in which a majority of the professional nurses are ONCC-certified. ONCC provides these plaques free-of-charge to any patient care setting that meets the majority requirement.

Andrews and Patel Associates in Camp Hill, PA
Anna Jaques Hospital, Outpatient Oncology Clinic in Newburyport, MA
Bayshore Community Hospital, Infusion Suite in Holmdel, NJ
Bozeman Deaconess Cancer Center in Montana
Cape Fear Valley Health System, Medical Oncology in Fayetteville, NC
Cedar Valley Cancer Center in Waterloo, IA
Chilton Memorial Hospital, Cancer Center in Pompton Plains, NJ
Ephrata Cancer Center in Pennsylvania
Fox Chase Cancer Center, Ambulatory Care in Philadelphia, PA
Glens Falls Hospital, CR Wood Cancer Center in New York
Harrison Medical Center, Radiation Oncology in Bremerton, WA
Hurron Valley Sinai Hospital, Charach Cancer Treatment Center in Commerce Township, MI
JFK Medical Center, 3 North Oncology in Edison, NJ
Kansas City Cancer Center in Overland Park, KS
Kuakini Medical Center, Chemotherapy in Honolulu, HI
Lake Forest Hospital, Outpatient Oncology in Illinois
Lynchburg Hematology-Oncology, Chemotherapy Infusion Center in Virginia
McAlester Cancer Care Associates in Oklahoma
Medical Center of Central Georgia, W.T. Anderson Infusion Center in Macon
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Thoracic Oncology Service, Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion in New York, NY
Mercy Health System, Hematology/Oncology Clinic in Janesville, WI
Miami Valley Hospital, Gynecology/Oncology Center in Dayton, OH
Michigan Cancer Specialists, Oncology/Hematology in Roseville
Moffitt Cancer Center, Clinical Research Unit in Tampa, FL
Moffitt Cancer Center, Cutaneous Oncology Clinic in Tampa, FL
Moffitt Cancer Center, Senior Adult Oncology Clinic in Tampa, FL
Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, Cancer Care Center in Seaford, DE
Physician’s East, Hematology/Oncology Department, Chemotherapy Infusion in Greenville, NC
Provena Saint Joseph Hospital, Bob and Edna Meadows Regional Cancer Center in Elgin, IL
Provena Saint Mary’s Regional Cancer Center in Bourbonnais, IL
Retreat Doctors Hospital in Richmond, VA
Rutland Regional Medical Center, Community Cancer Center in Vermont
Seattle Children’s Hospital, Hematology/Oncology Outpatient Clinic and Ambulatory Nursing Infusion Unit in Washington
Skaggs Regional Medical Center, Cancer Center in Branson, MO
St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Esther Marie Hatton Cancer Center in Edgewood, KY
St. John’s Hospital, 7D Oncology-Hematology in Springfield, MO
St. John’s Mercy Medical Center, John F. Krey Cancer Information Center in St. Louis, MO
St. Luke’s Cancer Institute, Outpatient Infusion in Kansas City, MO
Texas Oncology in Abilene
University of Louisville Health Care, James Graham Brown Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology Department in Kentucky
Washington University School of Medicine, Siteman Cancer Center Treatment Area in St. Louis, MO
Watauga Medical Center/Seby B. Jones Cancer Center, Medical Oncology in Boone, NC
Wentworth Douglass Hospital, Seacoast Cancer Center, Radiation Therapy in Dover, NH
Wheaton Franciscan Health Care, St. Francis Cancer Care Center in Milwaukee, WI
White Plains Hospital Center, Lowenthal Infusion Center in New York
William Beaumont Hospital Troy, Radiation Oncology in Michigan
Yale-New Haven Hospital, Gynecology Oncology Clinic in Connecticut

To obtain a plaque for your facility, go to www.oncc.org/awards/plaques.shtml to download the plaque order form.
Scofield Awards Provide Free Certification in 2010

ONCC will award up to 75 free 2010 certification tests or renewals through the Roberta Scofield Memorial Certification Awards. These awards only can be used for a 2010 certification test registration or for renewal by Option 1 (Practice hours + ONC-PRO) or Option 2 (practice hours + testing).

Applicants must submit a completed nomination packet, including an essay of up to 250 words describing how certification will help or has helped the nurse achieve his or her goals. Applicants do not need to be certified, but must be members of either the Oncology Nursing Society or the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses. Nurses who are certified must either be due for renewal in 2010 or planning to take a certification test to obtain an additional credential.

Application forms are available at http://www.oncc.org/awards/scofield.shtml. Completed application forms are due back to ONCC by August 1, 2009. Applicants will be notified in fall 2009.

Application Deadlines for 2009 Tests

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<th>OCN®, CPON®, CBCN</th>
<th>Early Application Deadline (save $75)</th>
<th>Final Application Deadline (full fee)</th>
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<td>November 2–30, 2009</td>
<td>July 8, 2009</td>
<td>July 22, 2009</td>
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*Note.* AOCNP® and AOCNS® tests are offered year-round. Candidates may apply at any time, and if eligible, will receive an authorization to test that provides for a 90-day testing window.

Is There a Writer in You?

Unleash your inner author, and join the ONCC Certification News Editorial Board! Two certified nurses are wanted to serve on the editorial board.

The primary responsibilities are to participate in the planning of four issues per year of the Certification News and to write assigned articles.

All work is completed via conference calls and e-mail—no travel required. Learn more at http://www.oncc.org/about/volunteer.shtml or download the ONCC Committee Application Form at http://www.oncc.org/about/docs/CommitteeApplication.pdf, and submit it to oncc@ons.org.

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Michael Smart, RN, BSN, OCN®
Susan Wozniak, RN, MSN, OCN®

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Darla York, RN, BSN, CPON®
Brenda Nevidjon, RN, MSN, FAAN, Ex Officio
Paula Trahan Rieger, RN, MSN, AOCN®, FAAN, Ex Officio

ONCC Mission Statement

The mission of the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation is to promote and provide oncology nursing certification for the enhancement of patient care and professional practice.

The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation was established for the development, administration, and evaluation of a program for certification in oncology nursing. Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation, 125 Enterprise Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1214 (+1-877-769-ONCC or +1-412-859-6104, phone; +1-412-859-6168, fax; oncc@ons.org, e-mail; www.oncc.org, Web site)

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