“The only thing constant in this world is change.”
—India Arie

From paper tests to 90-day computer-based testing windows, AOCN® to AOCNS® and AOCNP®, the creation of the CBCN® examination, chapter grants, more awards, and the addition of the “H” to the CPON® examination . . . whew, that’s a lot of change over the past few years! Forward-thinking leads to action, which requires evaluation and, quite possibly, more change. ONCC has experienced amazing changes, but the mission is the same—promoting excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties. From gathering subject matter experts, volunteers for test committees, certified nurses to serve on the board, to talented volunteers to facilitate the activities of the organization, ONCC has embraced change to meet the needs of certified oncology nurses.

This issue of the Certification News is filled with articles based on change. Read about the progress in recognizing the specialty knowledge of blood and marrow stem cell transplant nurses and those in radiation therapy. Learn about the election candidates—one of whom will become a new ONCC leader based on your votes. Be inspired by the award winners and their passion for oncology nursing. Celebrate those institutions recognized for supporting certification of staff members, and reflect upon your own motivation for becoming certified. Consider the impact your certification experience could have on others who may be hesitant to take their first steps in the process. As we are surrounded by change, what kinds of intentional changes will you make? Consider nominating a colleague for an award, cast your vote, become a certification advocate, or share your extraordinary certification story with Certification News . . . we all have one.

Maureen O’Hara Honored as 2011 OCN® of the Year
Ashley Leak, PhD, RN-BC, OCN®

Maureen O’Hara, RN, BSN, OCN®, was honored at the ONCC Recognition Breakfast as the 2011 Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®) of the Year. After completing her BSN from the University of San Francisco (USF), Maureen joined Stanford University Hospital and Clinics and has been an oncology nurse for 39 years at this facility. She has been certified since 1989.

O’Hara states that she was deeply humbled by this award, as “any oncology nurse on any given day with any given patient and family is the OCN® of the year.” She gives credit to her mentors over the course of her career, including Marian Vierra Cole, her clinical instructor in undergraduate nursing at USF, who had a profound influence on her. “I also am grateful for the extraordinary mentorship and support of my oncology nursing colleagues and immediate nursing managers at Stanford, including Mary Warner, Jan DiJulio, and Julie Latini. They planted the seeds of oncology nursing into my professional life, nurtured and supported me, and consistently validated the importance of my choice to stay at the bedside as a clinical expert.”

O’Hara was one of the original members of ONS in 1975 and is an active member of her local chapter, the San Francisco Bay Area ONS Chapter.

(See “2011 OCN® of the Year” on page 4)
Three candidates are on the ballot for the ONCC Board of Directors election. One position on the Board is open and must be filled by an OCN®. Three candidates have been slated, and information about each is below.

Nurses who were certified as of September 15, 2011 are eligible to vote. An e-mail from the election administrator was sent to certified nurses on November 2, 2011, with links and instructions for casting ballots. All voting must be completed online, no paper ballots will be used. The election will close December 8, 2011.

To prepare yourself to cast your vote, review the candidates’ leadership experience and how each would fulfill the mission of ONCC—“To promote excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties.”

The order in which the candidates appear below, on the ONCC Web site, and on the ballot was determined by computerized random selection.

Lucy Hertel, RN, BSN, OCN®
Gynecology/Oncology Nurse Coordinator
Barnes-Jewish Hospital
St. Louis, MO

Leadership Experience
- OCN® Test Development Committee, ONCC, 2006–2011
- OCN® Item Writer, ONCC, 2004–2011
- CBCN® Item Writer Workshop Mentor, ONCC, 2008
- Oncology Nursing Certification Advocate, ONCC, 2008–Present
- Member, St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness Speaker’s Bureau, 2004–2007
- Coordinator, Gynecology-Oncology Patient Support Groups, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, 2002–2004

Hertel’s Statement
“Excellence in patient care and professional practice starts with commitment. I have been an oncology nurse for 23 years, and I love what I do. I had the honor and privilege of working on the OCN® Test Development Committee for five years and mentoring the item writers for the first CBCN® certification examination. I understand the importance of staying current and continually reviewing and revising examination content, especially as we embark on the age of individualized cancer care. An oncology certified nurse understands the rationale for and goals of treatment, advocates holding treatments based on symptoms or tests results, and confidently instructs patients on all aspects of their treatment and care. As our profession becomes more subspecialized, we need to ensure minimal competency of the general oncology nurse and higher competencies of the subspecialized nurse. If I am elected to the Board of Directors, I will continue to promote the high standards held by ONCC in the development of new subspecialty certification examinations. Whether it is the highly complex stem cell transplant or radiation with its long-lasting side effects, each subspecialty is as unique as the patients we serve; the examinations should reflect this uniqueness. Certification signifies professional commitment and validates achievement of specialized knowledge to the public. It takes teamwork to produce valid examinations. My previous volunteer work with ONCC has strengthened my belief in and commitment to certification. It would be a tremendous honor to participate in advancing the mission of the Board.”

Anna Vioral, MSN, MEd, RN, OCN®
Oncology Quality Coordinator
West Penn Allegheny Health System
Pittsburgh, PA

Leadership Experience
- OCN® Test Development Committee, Member, ONCC, 2004–2009
- OCN® Item Writer, ONCC, 2002–2004
- Associate Editor, ONS Web site, ONS, 2009–2011
- Oncology Nurse Navigator Program, Co-Chair, West Penn Allegheny Health System, 2010–2011
- Chemotherapy Council Task Force, Chair, West Penn Allegheny Health System, 2009–2011
- Staff Oncology Education Integration Team, Chair, West Penn Allegheny Health System, 2009–2011

(See “Meet the Candidates” on page 3)
Meet the Candidates  (continued from page 2)

Vioral’s Statement

“Professional certification evokes values of professionalism, competence, and commitment, indicating to employers, colleagues, and clients that nurses have a specialized body of knowledge and skills. However, one of the most challenging aspects of oncology nursing in today’s healthcare arena has become maintaining excellence as oncology specialty units are dissipating and survivorship is flourishing. The increasingly diverse demands and challenges placed on oncology nurses underscore the importance of maintaining competency and increasing the level of expertise.

Therefore, certification is paramount in advancing excellence in oncology nursing. My commitment to educate and uphold excellence in oncology nursing has spanned over 20 years in a variety of roles including clinician, educator, researcher, and coordinator. In addition, my involvement at the local and national levels of ONS has further enriched this excellence. These opportunities have enabled me to gain valuable insights into oncology nursing as well as to integrate oncology nurses at all levels of practice to a higher level of excellence through promotion of oncology certification.

I believe that by being elected to the ONCC Board of Directors, I will be instrumental in the advancement of certification in oncology nursing. My goal is to network with ONS members to explore opportunities for growth within ONCC without compromising the reliability and validity of certification.

As a member of the ONCC Board of Directors, I look forward to advocating oncology certification, exemplifying the value of certification, upholding the integrity of certification, providing visionary contributions, and demonstrating a provocative role in promoting excellence in a more formalized leadership role to further enhance quality patient care and professional practice.”

Kathleen (Katie) Murphy, RN, BSN, OCN®
Clinical Staff Nurse, Resource Nurse
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

Leadership Experience

• Blood and Marrow Stem Cell Transplantation Role

Murphy’s Statement

“My passion for oncology nursing, expertise in collaboration, along with a multitude of leadership experiences, make me the ideal fit for this position. I am dedicated to supporting, nurturing, and leading the professional advancement of my oncology nurse colleagues. My core values of integrity, impartiality, and respect, combined with a deep-rooted passion for oncology nursing, have helped to cultivate my leadership abilities. As co-chair of Massachusetts General Hospital’s Cancer Nursing Practice Committee, I am able to monitor, support, and supervise the committee’s work on developing and updating nursing policies for the entire cancer center. I run our monthly meetings promptly and efficiently by setting the standard with clear expectations and accompanying effective and respectful communication. I excel in analyzing current nursing practices, performing needs assessments, developing a plan of action, and implementing the goal in a timely manner. I also recognize the importance of maintaining an open mind and willingness to learn.

Whether I am mentoring student nurses, serving as the resource nurse on an oncology unit, or representing all nurses in the cancer center, the common thread is my unwavering determination and enthusiasm for oncology nursing and improving patient care. As a recent advocate with ONCC, I have found that my personal goals and the mission of ONCC are synergistic. Through nursing excellence, certification, and nurse-directed research, we can continue to make great strides in patient care. As a member of your Board of Directors, I am fully confident that I will help fulfill the mission of ONCC.”

Delineation Study Task Force, Member, ONCC, 2011
• Cancer Nursing Practice Committee, Co-chair, Massachusetts General Hospital, 2010–Present
• Inpatient and Outpatient Leukemia/BMT Program, Resource Nurse, Massachusetts General Hospital, 2006–Present
• Therapeutic Touch Committee, Group Leader/Instructor, Massachusetts General Hospital, 2007–Present
• Light the Night, Team Member, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 2007–2008
• Relay for Life, Team Captain, American Cancer Society, 2005
Since the introduction of ONCC’s, Certified Breast Care Nurse (CBCN®) program, many queries have come in regarding if and when ONCC would offer other subspecialty certifications. Part of the process in deciding whether to develop programs is performing the due diligence required to define the specific knowledge set required in a subspecialty as well as determine viable interest. In addition to ensuring that a program could be financially self-sustaining after an initial outlay of funds for development, a sufficient number of annual candidates is necessary to enable adequate statistical analysis of an examination’s validity.

With the help of subject-matter experts, ONCC continues work on two subspecialty programs—radiation therapy and blood and marrow stem cell transplant (BMSCT) nursing.

In the case of radiation therapy, ONS and ONCC are collaborating on a certificate program. ONS will provide an educational course, and ONCC will offer an optional knowledge assessment. By successfully completing both the course and the assessment, the participant may earn a certificate of added qualification in radiation therapy nursing. The decision to proceed with a certificate program was due, in part, to market research indications that the anticipated number of radiation therapy nurses who would seek subspecialty certification would not be adequate to support an ongoing certification program. However, because of the important role of radiation therapy nurses in oncology, ONCC wants to provide a mechanism to recognize the special knowledge set held by radiation therapy nurses. The radiation therapy certificate program is expected to launch in 2012.

At this time, the Board has not yet decided whether a need exists to validate the specialized knowledge of BMSCT nurses, and if so, what the format of that recognition would be. The ONCC Board carefully will consider the results of the role delineation study that was completed this summer, market research, and other data before making a decision on whether to proceed into this subspecialty area, and if so, the manner and timing for developing a BMSCT program. More information about a BMSCT program will be forthcoming, following upcoming ONCC Board meetings.

2011 OCN® of the Year (continued from page 1)

She is involved in multiple community service activities, including the USF’s Dean’s Advisory Board, volunteer teaching, and student mentorship at USF as well as her volunteer work with the American Cancer Society and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

“I am blessed and privileged to be involved in the lives of my patients and families during their cancer journeys.” O’Hara’s exceptional nursing care has motivated survivors to name their children in her honor and has led her to speak at several memorial services of patients for whom she has cared. She is able to impact patients across the entire lifespan. Congratulations, Maureen O’Hara, 2011 OCN® of the Year.

Readers Respond

Who and/or what motivated you to become certified?

E-mail responses to oncc@oncc.org. Please include “Readers Respond” in your subject line.
Framed certificates and recognition plaques adorn the chemotherapy infusion room while staff badges proclaim oncology certification has been achieved by the wearer. When introducing staff, the office manager includes oncology certification status in the introduction. This is the supportive environment found at Oncology Hematology Associates (OHA) of Springfield in Missouri. While they seek to hire oncology certified nurses, they also welcome the chance to mentor those who have a passion for oncology and assist them in obtaining certification as they acclimate to their new practice environment. The institution supports both obtaining and maintaining certification by providing financial coverage for test fees, study materials, paid time off for conference attendance, continuing education, and retesting.

OHA, recipient of the Employer Recognition Award for an Institution With Less Than 25 Nurses, recognizes the importance of investing in certification and promoting professionalism. They also pay for ONS membership for every nurse in the office. Once certified, nursing units host a “pinning party” as the newly certified nurse receives a pin reflecting their certification and a celebratory cake. GUH incorporated certification as an essential element within their clinical advancement program and performance evaluations. During Oncology Nursing Month, special recognition activities are planned and in honor of National Certified Nurse’s Day, all certified nurses celebrate at the ballpark. Multiple publications highlight those nurses who have obtained certification, but they also share information regarding the achievements of certified nurses throughout the year.

Several GUH staff are members of the executive board in the local ONS chapter. Managers at GUH recognize the importance of this by prioritizing time off to meet professional development needs. The oncology certified nurses participate in a plethora of activities, ranging from canned food drives to charity walks to political advocacy, all of which are strongly encouraged by the organization.

Congratulations to Oncology Hematology Associates of Springfield and Georgetown University Hospital on their Employer Recognition Awards.
I have been an RN for 16 years, and I became certified for the first time in my career in 2009. Prior to focusing on oncology, I considered certification in critical care, but I never felt driven to follow through. Certification as an OCN® was required to continue in my present position. I loved what I was doing, and I wanted to keep doing it. After I studied for and passed the OCN® examination, I felt so empowered and had learned so much that just one year later, I decided to take the CBCN® examination (even though it wasn’t required). Only 569 nurses hold the CBCN® certification, and when I was offered an opportunity to interview and write about the 2011 CBCN® of the Year Award, I was thrilled!

Susan Bowman, RN, OCN®, CBCN®, MSW, is not only the CBCN® of the year, but she was also the Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators’ “Breast Navigator of the Year” in 2010. Even over the phone, she exudes confidence, compassion, knowledge, and professionalism. When I asked her why she so strongly supports and encourages certification, she responded by saying, “Oncology is changing so rapidly, especially with breast cancer care. Continual resources and education are needed. For my patients, certification means that I have expertise in an area that concerns them most.” She feels that the OCN® and CBCN® certifications focus on clinical perspectives that fit well into her practice.

Bowman believes that a healthy nursing practice includes being active in professional and supportive organizations. She has been the nominating chair for her local ONS chapter since 2008 and is a Web co-administrator for the ONS Breast Care SIG. Her volunteer services with the American Cancer Society include Look Good Feel Better, the Telefriend program, and other outreach activities. She is the co-editor of the newsletter for the National Coalition of Breast Centers and is an active member of the Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators.

In her current position as a nurse navigator for York Cancer Center in Pennsylvania, she has made tremendous strides in helping women with breast cancer make better choices. She developed an eight-week survivorship program that has its roots in the Woman’s Intervention Nutrition Study. The course includes information from the American Cancer Society, Institute of Medicine Guidelines, and input from the physicians in the practice. It’s entirely evidence-based and is divided into three segments (Nutrition, Exercise and Stress Management, and Clinical Issues such as lymphedema, endocrine therapy, sexuality, and spirituality). She conducts the class with the help of two registered dieticians and speakers from the community, and she includes a healthy dose of humor. Bowman describes the program as psycho-educational, and she really enjoys watching the participants stretch past their normal boundaries.

As a breast care nurse/navigator, she meets her patients at the time that they receive their diagnosis. She generally spends about an hour with them identifying needs and barriers, and they leave her with a scheduled appointment with a surgeon. It’s extremely important to Bowman that her patients receive an abundance of guidance and support. She knows just how they feel.

In 1993, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. In spite of some amazing and capable practitioners on her team (and in spite of being an RN) she still felt lost. She decided to alter her career course so that she could assist other women in their cancer journeys. She returned to school and completed a master’s in social work—ideal for a navigator. She feels that her biggest success with her navigation program is that it’s still thriving. She receives a tremendous amount of positive feedback from patients and physicians.

Bowman’s principles are truly inspiring, and her final comment to me is a reflection of her commitment to excellence and growth. “If you are an RN, and you are serious about what you are doing, you must pour yourself into the opportunity to change patients’ lives. To do that, you have to keep yourself in the loop. Certification does that.”

Congratulations to a remarkable nurse who, I am certain, is admired by many (including me).
Institutions Recognized for Staffing With Certified Nurses

Thirty-eight patient care facilities recently received plaques from ONCC, in recognition for staffing their facilities with ONCC-certified nurses. ONCC provides these plaques free of charge to any patient care setting where the majority (more than 50%) of professional nurses is ONCC certified. If you’d like to order a plaque for your facility, go to oncc.org/Awards/Plaques.

ONCC is pleased to honor these organizations for recognizing the value of having oncology certified nurses on their cancer care teams.

Cancer Care Center of Southern Indiana, LLC in Bloomington
Central Baptist Hospital, Cancer Care Center in Lexington, KY
Central Baptist Hospital, Outpatient Infusion in Lexington, KY
Central Baptist Hospital, Outpatient Infusion-Richmond in Lexington, KY
Christiana Care Health System, Radiation Oncology—Elkton Hospital in Maryland
Christiana Care Health System, Radiation Oncology in Newark, DE
Christiana Care Health System, Radiation Oncology in Wilmington, DE
Columbus Regional Hospital, Breast Health Center in Indiana
Covenant Cancer Treatment Center in Waterloo, IA

Desert Oncology Associates, LLP in Mesa, AZ
FHN, Leonard C. Ferguson Cancer Center in Freeport, IL
Good Samaritan Hospital, Cancer Pavilion Outpatient Infusion in Vincennes, IN
Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center/UT Southwestern, Bone Marrow Transplant in Dallas, TX
Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center/UT Southwestern, Breast Center in Dallas, TX
Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center/UT Southwestern, Medical Hematology/Oncology in Dallas, TX
Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center/UT Southwestern, Nursing Administration in Dallas, TX
J. Phillip Citta Regional Cancer Center and Community Medical Center, Radiation Department in Toms River, NJ
James Care East at the Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, OH
King’s Daughter’s Hospital and Health Services, Medical Oncology in Madison, IN
Marian Cancer Center in Santa Maria, CA
Mercy Oncology in Enid, OK
Meritus Health System, John R. Marsh Cancer Center in Hagerstown, MD
Moncrief Cancer Institute in Fort Worth, TX
Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children, BBMT in Wilmington, DE
Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children, Hematology Oncology Outpatient Clinic in Wilmington, DE
Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Palo Alto Cancer Care in California
Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, Radiation Oncology in Hershey
St. John’s Health Center, Oncology Unit in Santa Monica, CA
St. Luke’s Hospital and Health Network, Oncology Clinical Trials in Bethlehem, PA
Texas Oncology, Arlington South/Mansfield in Arlington
Texas Oncology in Fort Worth
Texas Oncology in Round Rock
Texas Oncology in Sherman
Texas Oncology in Waco
University of Colorado Anschutz Cancer Pavilion, Anschutz Cancer Center Clinics and Infusion Center in Aurora, CO
University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, Oncology Infusion Center in Worcester, MA
VA Connecticut Health Care System, Oncology Outpatient Specialty Clinic in West Haven
VA Maine Health Care System, Oncology in Augusta

New Advocates Join Program

Three certified nurses recently volunteered to promote the benefits of certification among their colleagues by joining the Oncology Nursing Certification Advocates Program. More than 700 nurses are now Advocates who share information about certification with nurses in their workplace, community, or chapter. Join ONCC in welcoming these new volunteers.

Kathy Daly, Cleveland, OH
Patricia Lorenz, San Diego, CA
Heather Martorella, Pittsburgh, PA
If you’d like to become an Oncology Nursing Certification Advocate, join today at oncc.org/Support/Advocates.
Marcelle Kaplan, RN, MS, AOCN®, CBCN®, was awarded the 2011 Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN®) of the Year Award in recognition of her many accomplishments and contributions to the specialty of oncology nursing and patient care. She has exemplified the role of advanced practice nurse (APN) in patient care, research, education, and leadership. Her contributions to the profession and ability to mentor others with their career development exemplify the characteristics of the AOCN® of the Year.

Over the years, Marcelle has held several leadership positions with ONCC and ONS. After serving as chair of the OCN® Test Development Committee, she served on the ONCC Board and was elected President of ONCC from 1998–1999. More recently, Marcelle was closely involved in creating the CBCN® certification credential and examination blueprint. Her passion for certification was passed on to one of her patients with breast cancer who was moved to donate generous funding for nursing certification activities at her former institution, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center, where 50% of the oncology nurses have become certified. The uniqueness of this patient’s contribution was recognized with the inaugural Pearl Moore Certification Champion Award in 2008. Marcelle also has served as chair of the ONS Nominating Committee, as a member of the APN Conference Planning Team, and as leader of the ONS Putting Evidence Into Practice project on managing hot flashes secondary to treatment for breast and prostate cancer (April 2011 issue of the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing).

Marcelle is an exemplary author and presenter. She is the editor of the ONS book Understanding and Managing Oncologic Emergencies and was an associate editor of the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing for four years. She is responsible for the “Supportive Care” column, through which she was gratified to mentor many novice writers. She has authored several chapters and columns and lectured at ONS Congress and Institutes of Learning on breast cancer issues; specifically regarding the correlation between cancer risk and obesity as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle. One program, which has impacted every nurse caring for persons with cancer at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, is a four-hour “Oncology Overview.” This mandatory education provides the nurses with the knowledge to improve patient outcomes. Some of the nurses who attended the program said that it was the most useful education event they ever attended.

Marcelle generously has given of herself to oncology nursing and hopes that every nurse finds the motivation within to become certified. She has her own nursing theory regarding certification. It is a journey of achieving the highest level on Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, self-actualization. The first step is when the nurse identifies herself or himself as an oncology nurse who embraces this specialty and joins ONS. The rest of the journey takes nurturing and mentoring from nursing leadership so that the nurse obtains the knowledge base to obtain certification and improve patient care.

It has been a long time since Marcelle first took the certification examination, but she hopes that every nurse embraces certification and membership in our professional organizations. Thank you, Marcelle, for impacting so many nurses traveling this journey!

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www.facebook.com/oncologycertification

Join friends and colleagues in finding and sharing the latest news, information, and resources about oncology nursing certification on the ONCC page on Facebook. It’s free and easy to create an account, and you control your privacy. Sign up today!
Certification May Help You Renew Your RN License

Did you know that some states accept specialty certification for renewal of an RN license? The details and requirements vary by state. Some states that require continuing nursing education (CNE) for RN license renewal will accept nationally recognized specialty certification in lieu of part or all of the CNE requirement. Some states will accept only initial certification, while others will accept either initial certification or renewal of certification, and nurses should check with their state board of nursing for specific details.

The following states may accept specialty certification for license renewal. Because renewal requirements do change periodically, consult your state board of nursing for the most up-to-date information.

Arkansas—arsbn.arkansas.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Kentucky—kbn.ky.gov
Michigan—michigan.gov/healthlicense
Nebraska—hhs.state.ne.us/crl/nursing/index.htm
New Hampshire—state.nh.us/nursing
New Mexico—bon.state.nm.us
North Carolina—ncbon.com
Oklahoma—ok.gov/nursing
South Carolina—llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing
Tennessee—health.state.tn.us/Boards/Nursing/index.htm
Texas—bon.state.tx.us
West Virginia—wvrnboard.com
Wyoming—nursing.state.wy.us

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Arkansas—arsbn.arkansas.gov/Pages/default.aspx
Kentucky—kbn.ky.gov
Michigan—michigan.gov/healthlicense
Nebraska—hhs.state.ne.us/crl/nursing/index.htm
New Hampshire—state.nh.us/nursing
New Mexico—bon.state.nm.us
North Carolina—ncbon.com
Oklahoma—ok.gov/nursing
South Carolina—llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing
Tennessee—health.state.tn.us/Boards/Nursing/index.htm
Texas—bon.state.tx.us
West Virginia—wvrnboard.com
Wyoming—nursing.state.wy.us

Apply Now for 2012 Test Dates

In 2012, ONCC significantly will expand the number of testing dates for the OCN®, CBCN®, and CPHON® tests, providing nearly year-round test dates. See the table below for test dates and application deadlines.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCN®, CBCN®, CPHON® Test Dates</th>
<th>Apply By (to save $100!)</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 2–September 29, 2012</td>
<td>April 4, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1–December 31, 2012</td>
<td>July 5, 2012</td>
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AOCNP® and AOCNS® tests will be available February 1–December 31, 2012. Candidates who want to be sure of a 90-day testing window in 2012 should apply by September 1, 2012.

International testing (all credentials) will be available November 1–30, 2012, at select locations outside North America. Candidates should apply by July 18, 2012.