ONCC Expands Year-Round Testing for Nurses
Change means certified nurses can be at the patient’s side sooner

PITTSBURGH, PA - July 31, 2014 - The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) will offer all of its oncology nursing certification examinations year-round beginning next year. The 2015 examinations will be available February 1-December 31, 2015. Year-round testing will reduce the time nurses must wait between applying for a test and the test date.

“Year-round testing offers nurses greater flexibility,” said ONCC President Lauri Linder, APRN, PhD, CPON®. “Some nurses may be able to earn their certification a few months earlier than they could have in the past. This access to testing could place certified nurses at the patient’s side sooner as well.”

Year-round testing will be offered for all ONCC examinations, including the Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®), Certified Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurse (CPHON®), Certified Breast Care Nurse (CBCN®), and Blood and Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse (BMTCN™) Examinations. ONCC has offered year round testing for the Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP®) and Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist (AOCNS®) Examinations for several years.

The process begins when a nurse applies to take a test. If the nurse is eligible to test, she or he will be given a 90-day period in which to schedule an appointment and take the test. Candidates whose plans change prior to the end of their 90-day period may request to delay testing, provided they meet specific requirements. Nurses who plan to take an ONCC test late in 2015 should apply by September 1, 2015, to ensure they have a 90-day testing period. Candidates who apply after September 1 may be able to test in a shorter period, and may have fewer choices for test dates and locations. ONCC also offers limited international testing at selected sites outside North America during November. Candidates who wish to test internationally will be required to apply by mid-July.


The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties. ONCC administered the first Oncology Certified Nurse examination in 1986. Today, ONCC offers basic and advanced certification in adult oncology nursing, basic certification in pediatric oncology/hematology nursing, and specialty certification in breast care nursing and blood and marrow transplant nursing. Learn more about ONCC at www.oncc.org.

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