



Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation

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FACT SHEET

Overview

The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation was established for the development, administration, and evaluation of a program for certification in oncology nursing. Incorporated in 1984 and governed by a Board of Directors, ONCC is the certifying body for oncology nursing, and has met all standards established by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification and the National Commission on Certifying Agencies.

Mission & Vision

The mission of ONCC is to promote excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties.

The vision of ONCC is that oncology care across the continuum will be provided by oncology certified professionals.

Certification Programs

Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN®)—basic level certification focused on adult oncology

Certified Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurse (CPHON®)—basic level certification focused on pediatric oncology/hematology

Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP®)—role-specific, advanced level certification for the oncology nurse practitioner who holds a master's or higher degree in nursing and has completed a nurse practitioner program

Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist (AOCNS®)—role specific, advanced level certification for the oncology clinical nurse specialist who holds a master's or higher degree in nursing

Certified Breast Care Nurse (CBCN®)—role-specific specialty certification focused on breast care

Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON®)—basic level certification focused on pediatric oncology

Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN®)—advanced level certification focused on adult oncology

Certification Eligibility

All ONCC certification candidates must hold an active, unrestricted RN license to be eligible to take an ONCC examination. In addition, each ONCC certification has specific eligibility criteria for education and experience that must be met before the candidate takes the examination. These specific criteria can be found on the ONCC web site at www.oncc.org, and in the *Oncology Nursing Certification Test Bulletin*.

Certification Testing

Certification is granted to candidates who meet the eligibility criteria and successfully complete a comprehensive multiple-choice examination. OCN®, CPHON®, and CBCN® examinations are offered quarterly by computer-based testing. AOCNP® and AOCNS® examinations are offered year-round, also by computer-based testing. All ONCC examinations are offered at more than 230 computer-based testing centers located in North America and at selected international test sites.

Renewal of Certification

There are three components to certification renewal: practice hours, professional development activities, and successful retesting. Two of these three components must be met in order to renew certification. Three renewal options are available, based on the combinations of these renewal components:

Option 1: Practice hours + Professional Development Activities (known as the Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option, or ONC-PRO)

Option 2: Practice hours + Successful Testing

Option 3: Professional Development Activities + Successful Testing.

Currently, 30,900 nurses are certified as OCN®, 2,059 as CPON®, 1,086 as AOCN®, 694 as AOCNP®, 304 as AOCNS®, 454 as CBCN® and 234 as CPHON®.

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Certification Makes a Difference™