Objectives

- Describe eligibility criteria, resources, and application process for taking the OCN® exam.
- Identify test-taking strategies that optimize performance on the OCN® exam.

What is Nursing Certification?

- Formal recognition of specialized knowledge, skills, and experience in nursing
- Demonstrated by achieving standards identified by a nursing subspecialty to promote health outcomes
  - OCN® exam based on role delineation study of oncology nursing practice conducted in 2012

Disclaimer

- This course is not developed, provided, sponsored, or endorsed by the Oncology Nurse Certification Corporation (ONCC).
- Participation in a review course does not guarantee successful completion of a certification test.
- This course does provide contact hours that may be used to meet eligibility requirements for initial certification or for renewal of certification by ILNA points.
Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)

- Non-profit organization incorporated in 1984
- Mission:
  - To promote excellence in patient care and professional practice by validating specialized knowledge in oncology nursing and related specialties
- Governed by a Board of Directors, who represent various levels of certification, roles in nursing, and the public at large.
- ONCC is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS)
- ONCC website address: www.oncc.org


Certified Nurses By the Numbers January 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credential</th>
<th>Total Number Certified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCN®</td>
<td>29,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOCN®</td>
<td>759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPON®</td>
<td>1,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOCNP®</td>
<td>1,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOCNS®</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBCN®</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPON®</td>
<td>1,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMTCN™</td>
<td>798</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


ONC Oncology Nursing Certification Test Bulletin

- Available to download online at www.oncc.org
- Information specific to OCN certification
- Test Candidate information
  - Eligibility
  - Application instructions
  - Test check-in & ID requirements
  - DEADLINES!!!
- ONCC Policies
Eligibility Criteria for Initial OCN Certification

• Current, active, unencumbered RN license
  – At time of application & examination
• Minimum 1 year experience (12 months) as an RN
  – Within the last 3 years (36 months)
• Minimum 1,000 hours oncology nursing practice
  – Within last 2½ years (30 months)
• Minimum 10 contact hours of continuing nursing education in the specialty of oncology nursing or an academic elective in oncology nursing
  – Within 3 years (36 months) prior to application
  – Accredited provider or approver of continuing nursing education
  – Maximum 5 contact hours CME (continuing medical education)
  – Applicants may be asked to submit documentation (CE certificate, letter of attendance, or academic grade report) via mail or fax.

What is the difference between CNE & CME?

• Continuing Medical Education (CME)
  – Doctors, Physician Assistants, etc.
• Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) is provided specifically for nurses.
• NOTE**: To meet eligibility criteria for initial certification, a maximum of 50% (5 hours) of the CE may be CME.

Initial Certification Applicants Submit:

• OCN Test application
  – Apply online at www.oncc.org/access-my-account
    • Applicants that submit by paper may be charged an additional $25 fee
  – Enter details of required 10 hours of Continuing Nursing Education credit or academic elective in oncology nursing
    • Online applicants may be asked to submit documentation of completion by fax or mail
    • Fax or mail applicants will submit documentation with application
    • Documentation may include: CE certificate, academic grade report, letter of attendance
• Full payment (credit card payment)

2016 Application Deadlines & Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Online Test Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1 – December 31</td>
<td>Apply when ready to test*</td>
<td>Non-ONS Member: $305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Member Age 65+: $313</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Apply by September 1, 2015 to ensure a 90-day testing window
• ONS Members save $120 on cost of exam
• Online application saves $25 over cost of paper application
Application for Testing

• Submit application, fees, and all required documentation
• ONCC will send email confirmation indicating your application has been received
  – This is confirmation that application has been received
  – NOT confirmation that you are eligible to test
  – If you do not receive confirmation that your application has been received within four weeks of applying, contact ONCC

“Authorization to Test”

• If you are confirmed as eligible to test, ONCC will send you an “Authorization to Test” via email
• The email will be from ONCC
• The subject line will read “ONCC Authorization to Test”
• Check your junk mail/spam folders, and add oncc@oncc.org to your email safe senders or contacts list

Scheduling Test Appointment

• The “Authorization to Test” will provide information on how to schedule or change a test appointment
• Upon receiving your ATT, immediately:
  – Confirm the information on the ATT is correct
  – Read the ATT and all accompanying information
  – Contact ONCC (1-877-769-6222 or oncc@oncc.org) to correct inaccuracies on the ATT or to report lost ATT
• Contact ONCC if you do not receive an ATT within 4 weeks of applying to test

Testing Window

• A 90-day period will be provided for you to schedule an appointment and take the test
• Apply after September 1:
  – May not be accommodated in a test period of less than 90 days
  – May have limited choices of test dates and locations
Preparing for Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Environment

- Plan for:
  - 3 hour test session
    - Includes 15 minutes to complete CBT tutorial and exit survey
  - To preview test center environment
    - Go to www.prometric.com
    - Click on “Prepare for Test Day”

2016 OCN Exam Format & Scoring

- 165 multiple-choice questions
  - 145 questions count towards scoring of exam
  - 20 questions are newly developed questions being pre-tested, do not count towards score
- 3 hours to complete test
- Score determined by number of questions you answer correctly
  - No penalty for incorrect answers
  - It is to your advantage to answer every question

OCN Test Content

- Based on the OCN Test Blueprint
- Blueprint is based on the results of a role delineation study of basic adult oncology nursing practice completed in 2012
- Nine major subject areas
  - Each area represented in every test with the appropriate percentage of items
  - However, not all content sub-areas are included on every form of the test

2016 OCN Test Blueprint Content Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Percentage of 2016 Test</th>
<th># of Scored Questions*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Promotion, Screening &amp; Early Detection</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Basis for Practice</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Modalities</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom Management</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial Dimensions of Care</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oncologic Emergencies</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivorship</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palliative &amp; End of Life Care</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Performance</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*To determine the number of scored items from each subject area, multiply the percentage by 145.


What is a “Passing Score”?

- ONCC tests are scored using a scaled score
- A scaled score is not a percentage score
  - It is a transformation of the raw score (number of items answered correctly) into a different unit of measurement
  - Two well-known tests administered in the U.S. that report scores as scaled scores are the ACT and SAT.
- A scaled score of 55 is the passing score for all ONCC tests
  - That 55 equates to a different raw score on various forms (versions) of the test depending on the difficulty of the form.

Assess Your Learning Needs

- Review the test blueprint
- Pay attention to how each subject area is weighted
  - Weight corresponds to the percentage of questions in that subject area
- Identify which areas are your strengths and weaknesses.

Collect Study Materials

- ONCC recommends using resources included on the OCN Test Reference List (page 6 of OCN Test Candidate Handbook)
- These references are up-to-date with the current test materials
- Avoid using outdated materials!
New Core Curriculum for Oncology Nursing!

  - Available through ONS bookstore online
    - $86.00 for ONS Members
    - $96.00 for non-ONS members
  - May also find it at other sites (Amazon.com, Barnes & Nobles) and from publisher (Elsevier)

Companion Study Guide

  - Available through ONS online bookstore
    - $54.00 ONS Members
    - $60.00 Non-ONS Members
  - May also find it at other sites (Amazon.com, Barnes & Nobles) and from publisher (Elsevier)

Preparing for the Exam:
Build a personal study plan

- Review test blueprint
- Establish objectives based on your assessment of your learning needs
- Develop personal study plan
  - Create a study schedule
  - Choose your study materials
    - Study partners, group study
    - Review courses
    - Inservices
    - Practice tests
    - Reference materials

Practice Tests

- ONCC website: [www.oncc.org](http://www.oncc.org)
- One, free, 50-question Practice test is available
- Two additional Practice Tests available for purchase
  - Given 14 days to access the test once you purchase it
  - $35 per test, or $50 for both tests

[ONCC website accessed May 26, 2016.](http://www.oncc.org)
Online Resources

• Oncology Nursing Society Online Courses
  www.ons.org/education/courses-activities

• OCN Certification Review Bundle
  – $279.00 for ONS members, $389.00 for non-members
  – 40.87 CE credits
  – Four courses (may be purchased individually) + Practice Tests
    • Prevention, Detection, and the Science of Cancer
    • Treatment and Symptom Management
    • Quality of Life Issues
    • Professional Practice – Oncology Nurse
    • OCN Practice Test (only available with purchase of review bundle)

Local PSONS & ONS Programs

• PSONS Monthly Education Meetings
  – 3rd Wednesday of each month in Seattle

• PSONS Annual Symposium
  – March 3 - 4, 2017
  – Lynnwood Convention Center, Lynnwood, WA

Preparing for the Exam:
Carry out your plan!

• Plot your study out on a calendar
• Allocate a reasonable amount of study time to review content areas
• Include time to obtain review materials
• DO NOT leave all of your preparation for one long study time the week or night before the test
• Use study methods that have worked for you in the past

Reduce Your Anxiety:
Prepare Checklist of Items You Need

• Authorization to Test (ATT)
• Two forms of ID
  – One must include photo
  – Both must have signature, be current, valid, or non-expired
  – Name on both must match name on ATT
    • Middle name vs middle initial is acceptable
  – See table in test bulletin for description of acceptable forms of ID
• Directions to facility
• Money for parking
Taking Multiple Choice Tests

• Look for words such as:
  – Most, first, initially, immediately, usually
• Look for absolutes such as:
  – Always, never, every, none, all of the time
• Try turning multiple-choice into a “true” and “false” statement
  – Use process of elimination to select best answer

Read the Questions Systematically

• Read the question first and think of the answer
• Do not assume information not given or go beyond what the question asks.
• Then read all of the responses

Taking Test With Confidence

• When weighing options, look for those that:
  – Embody good nursing judgment
  – Enhance communication, respect, & acceptance of patient’s feelings
• Choose options that are:
  – Correct in all respects
  – Relate to common needs or to the population in general

Pace Yourself During Test

• Don’t spend too much time on any one question
• When you have completed all of the questions, review your test for incomplete items, or items you’ve marked for further review.
OCN® Credential

- Candidates who pass the OCN® test may use certification mark “OCN®”
- May be used only as long as certification is valid
- Certification is valid for 4 years

If you haven’t registered for an exam.....
There’s no better time than now!

Questions?