

Certification Renewal

Certification granted by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) is valid for four years.

All renewal candidates must have a current, active, unrestricted RN license. There are three components to recertification and two of them must be met to recertify. These components include:

- Practice Hours (the number of hours required varies depending on the credential)
- Professional development points, known as the Oncology Nursing Certification Points Renewal Option (ONC-PRO). The number of ONC-PRO points required varies depending on the credential
- Successful retesting

The options for recertification are based on the combinations of the two of the components above:

- **Option 1:** RN license + Practice Hours + ONC-PRO
- **Option 2:** RN license + Practice Hours + Successful retesting
- **Option 3:** RN license + ONC-PRO + Successful retesting

Nurses who do not have the practice hours include those who are not working, those working in areas other than oncology, and those working in non-nursing roles. Those without practice hours may recertify using Option 3.

Note: Because the AOCN® examination is no longer offered, the AOCN® credential may only be renewed using Option 1.

More information about certification renewal, including practice hour requirements, can be found in the booklet, *Understanding Your Oncology Nursing Certification Renewal Options*, available from ONCC, or on the ONCC Web site (www.oncc.org).

ONC-PRO Point Categories

Certified nurses may earn points toward certification renewal in up to seven categories of professional development activities. Candidates do not have to earn points in every category. ONC-PRO categories include:

- **Continuing Nursing Education** – points are awarded for programs that have been provided or formally approved for contact hours by an accredited provider or approver of nursing continuing education. (A list of acceptable approvers/providers can be found on the ONCC Web site at www.oncc.org.)
- **Continuing Medical Education** – points are awarded for programs that have been formally approved for CME hours
- **Academic Education** – points are awarded for courses that are required for a nursing major or that address the biopsychosocial knowledge base of professional human service, provided by accredited colleges or universities
- **Professional Publications** – points are awarded for publication of oncology content in books, journals, professional newsletters, or electronic media
- **Professional Presentations** – points are awarded for presentations of oncology content made to nurses, other healthcare providers, or the public
- **Precepting** – points are awarded for serving as a preceptor for students enrolled in academic programs
- **Volunteer Leadership Service** – points are awarded for volunteer leadership service to any professional healthcare organization

ONC-PRO Point Requirements

Option 1 and Option 3 renewal candidates must submit a minimum number of ONC-PRO points, including a minimum number of specialty points as indicated below. Candidates do not have to submit points in every category. There are limits on the number of points that can be submitted in some categories.

	OCN®	CPON®	AOCN®, AOCNP®, AOCNS®
Total Points Required for Renewal Option 1 and Option 3	100 (at least 65 must be Oncology Points)	100 (at least 80 must be Pediatric Points, of which at least 50 must be pediatric oncology)	125 (at least 75 must be Oncology Points)
Category Point Limits (the maximum number of points that may be earned in these categories)	Continuing Medical Education: 50 points maximum Precepting & Volunteer Service: 20 points maximum (total for both categories combined)	Continuing Medical Education: 50 points maximum Precepting & Volunteer Service: 20 points maximum (total for both categories combined)	Continuing Medical Education: 62.5 points maximum Precepting & Volunteer Service: 25 points maximum (total for both categories combined)

ONC-PRO Points Accrual Period

Candidates may submit ONC-PRO points accrued from January 1 of the beginning of their current certification period, through the date the application is submitted, provided those points were not used for a previous renewal by ONC-PRO. For example, a nurse renewing certification in 2009 may submit points earned beginning January 1, 2005. All points must be accrued by the final ONC-PRO application deadline.

Examples of ONC-PRO Point Values

The number of ONC-PRO points awarded for professional development activities varies. The following are examples of point values for common activities; specific point values for other activities can be found in the booklet, *Understanding Your Oncology Nursing Certification Renewal Options*, and on the ONCC Web site (www.oncc.org).

Continuing Nursing Education (CNE)

1 Contact Hour = 1 ONC-PRO Point

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

1 CME Hour = 1 ONC-PRO Point

Academic Education

1 credit = 15 ONC-PRO Points

Professional Publications

Original journal article, published in a peer-reviewed journal = 10 ONC-PRO Points (divided by the number of authors)

Presentations

1 contact hour of presentation = 3 ONC-PRO Points

Precepting

100 hours per semester = 5 ONC-PRO Points

Volunteer Leadership Service

1 year of service = 5 ONC-PRO Points

Keeping Records of Your ONC-PRO Points

When you apply for certification renewal by Option 1 or Option 3, you will need to submit ONC-PRO Logs. The logs are a record of the ONC-PRO points you've earned. Electronic ONC-PRO Logs can be created, maintained, updated and submitted online at www.oncc.org. Hard copies of ONC-PRO logs can be printed from the ONCC Web site (www.oncc.org), or found in the booklet, *Understanding Your Oncology Nursing Certification Renewal Options*. ONCC will send this booklet to you prior to your certification renewal.

Your Responsibilities

Keep documentation of ONC-PRO points you earn, such as CE certificates, grade reports for academic courses, copies of programs that list you as a presenter, or letters attesting to precepting or volunteer service. You may need to provide this documentation if there are questions about your application, or if your application is selected for audit.

Also, remember to renew your credential prior to its expiration. ONCC will send you several notices regarding renewal deadlines and other important information. However, because delivery cannot be guaranteed, it is your responsibility to ensure that your renewal application and documentation is received by ONCC prior to the deadline date.

More Information

Additional information about renewing your certification, including current certification policies, can be obtained from the ONCC Web site (www.oncc.org) or by contacting ONCC.

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