Board Certification in Occupational Health Nursing

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American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN)
ABOHN Certification

- Examination program to establish proficiency in Occupational Health Nursing (OHN) specialty
- Competencies and Standards of Practice
  - Developed by AAOHN
  - Confirmed by ABOHN practice analysis
- Requirements
  - Active licensure as RN (or international equivalent)
  - Prescribed amount of recent experience in OHN field
ABOHN Credentials
AAOHN Defines OHN Competency Areas

- Clinical practice
- Case management
- Workforce, workplace and environment
- Regulatory and legislative knowledge
- Management, business and leadership
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Health and safety education and training
- Research
- Professionalism
ABOHN Role in Certification

• Establishes minimum requirements for proficiency
  – Education
  – Experience
• Conduct periodic practice analysis
  – Examination reflects wide variation of OHN roles
• Questions developed by board of subject matter experts
  – Statistically validated exam questions
National Board Accreditation

• ABOHN certification examinations have met and maintain rigorous standards required for accreditation by:
  – National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)
Practice Analysis

• Defines role of Occupational Health Nurse
  – Provides overview of OHN scope of practice
    • Assures relevance of examination questions
    • Draws from all areas of Occupational Health
      – Industry
      – Healthcare facilities
      – Educational institutions
      – Consultants
Core Credential: COHN

• Certified Occupational Health Nurse
  – RN with Associate Degree, Diploma or higher
  – 3000 hours of experience or OHN certificate (academic credit)

• Examination focus
  • Direct Care - 31%
  • Coordinator - 30%
  • Case Management - 21%
  • Advisor - 18%
Core Credential: COHN-S

• Certified Occupational Health Nurse-Specialist
  – RN with Bachelor Degree or higher
  – 3000 hours of experience or OHN certificate (academic credit)

• Examination focus
  • Management - 28%
  • Direct Care - 24%
  • Case Management - 20%
  • Education - 14%
  • Consultation - 14%
Recertification

• Valid RN license
• Experience in the OH field
  – 3000 hours every five years
• Continuing education
  – 50 contact hours
Respirator Exam Questions

• Assessment
  – Physical job requirements & health status
  – Occupational and environmental history

• Planning
  – Recommend hazard controls
  – Apply regulatory standards and requirements
  – Pulmonary function testing

• Implementation
  – Surveillance programs
  – Employee training on use & care of PPE
  – Job placement recommendations
QUESTIONS

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