

CSO

Planning to take the Certified Specialist in Oncology exam?

Here are the steps to take.

1. Log on to the CDR website <http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/spec/oncology.htm> for dates, locations, application, reference list and test outline. Send in the application, mark your calendar with dates to arrange testing and your test date.
2. Study for the exam using several comprehensive oncology nutrition resources to get an overview. Review test outline <http://www.cdrnet.org/PDFs/Oncology%20Content%20Outline.pdf> , noting the % weighting for number of questions on specific topic areas. For instance, the heaviest weighting goes to history (15%), treatment effects (14%) and nutrition intervention strategies (13%), and 4% of the questions relate to nutrition support. Spend time studying the areas that are more heavily weighted and you feel less confident about the content.

There are several ON DPG references that will help you study for the exam.

The Clinical Guide to Oncology Nutrition, 2nd ed. Available for purchase through

http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/shop_16436_ENU_HTML.htm

Management of Nutrition Impact Symptoms in Cancer and Education Handouts, 2nd ed. Available for purchase through

http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/shop_16436_ENU_HTML.htm

The Oncology section of the Evidence Analysis Library, accessed via:

<http://www.adaevidencelibrary.com/default.cfm?auth=1> and become familiar with the recommendations

And look for the ON Toolkit (to be released this fall). It contains materials that guide practice using content from the ON Evidence Analysis Library. ONDPG also plans to offer pre-FNCE workshops to help those preparing to take the exam.

3. Become familiar with writing diagnostic statements if you are not already writing those for your patients.
4. Know the labs and medications that play particular importance in oncology practice, especially those that have nutrition interventions or nutrition related side effects associated with them.

Consider forming a study group to help keep you on track, check out the list-serve for oncology nutrition questions and answers and read the ONC newsletter to keep up to date. Remember, the exam is written for a dietitian with approximately two years experience in oncology.

We look forward to having you join the ranks of those recognized for their specialized knowledge in Oncology Nutrition.