

# PROMOTE PROFESSIONALISM THROUGH CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING

Published: July 2008

## Preamble

This document provides an overview of how certification and licensing helps promote professionalism in clinical engineering.

## Qualifications

Certification is essential and a mark of distinction in any professions (e.g. certified public accountants (CPAs), teacher certification, lawyer specialty certification, board certification of physicians, certified quality engineers (CQEs) and board certified healthcare architects). It demonstrates that the certified individual has the knowledge and experience of the subject and recognition of professional excellence by peers.

Licensing is currently not available in clinical engineering. Some clinical engineers pursue a Professional Engineering (PE) license through their primary (bachelors) engineering degree e.g. electrical or mechanical engineering. Some efforts have been reported in starting licensing in the broader field of biomedical engineering but to date it is not available. However, Clinical engineering certification is available. The process is outlined below, and further detail, as well as latest information is available at the website referenced below.

## Guidelines

1. The Healthcare Technology Certification Commission (HTCC) administers the CCE exam.
2. Getting certified is a three-step process: (a) application review and approval (b) written exam and (c) oral exam.
3. The exam is based on a body of knowledge (BOK) defined by the ACCE through surveys of practicing clinical engineers from the United States and abroad.
4. According to the 2007 Candidate Handbook the allocation of questions in the written examination is approximately as follows. Technology Management (25%), Service Delivery Management (18%), Product Development, Testing, Evaluation, & Regulatory Compliance (7%), IT/Telecom (7%), Education of Others (9%), Facilities Management (5%), Risk Management/Safety (10%), General Management (12%) and Other (7%).
5. The details about the written and oral exams is given in the "Candidate Handbook for Certification in Clinical Engineering" which is available at the HTCC website (see the References).

## **References**

1. The Healthcare Technology Certification Commission (HTCC) - <http://www.acce-htf.org/certification.html>
2. Candidate Handbook for Certification in Clinical Engineering

**Approval Date (ACCE Board): May 31, 2008**