



The OASIS Certificate and Competency Board, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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OCCB's COS-C Exam: Your Choice! OASIS-B1 or OASIS-C

LAFAYETTE, Louisiana (November 4, 2009) - The OASIS Certificate & Competency Board (OCCB) is excited to announce that it has developed the new OASIS-C exam and conducted the Passing Score Study Meetings: the final steps in finalizing the latest iteration of the COS-C exam. Feedback from recent COS-C examinees and educational workshop attendees, as well as positive sentiment gathered by the OCCB on a recent online poll, has made it apparent that there is great interest in the OASIS-C version of the COS-C exam.

In the past OCCB has maintained a policy of testing only on the current CMS guidance. The advent of OASIS-C, however, is driving thousands to workshops through year's end including many whom are interested in establishing their knowledge of the CMS OASIS-C rules. With this in mind, **OCCB has decided to offer the OASIS-C exam as soon as it is available to give those individuals an opportunity to test their comprehension of the new guidance.**

For all live exam administrations conducted between November 12th and December 31st, interested candidates will have the **option of taking either the OASIS-B1 version OR the OASIS-C version** of the COS-C exam. Starting January 1, 2010, only the OASIS-C version will be offered.

For those interested in taking the exam via the computer-based testing option, all 2009 exams will be the OASIS-B1 version. The OASIS-C CBT version will go live on January 1, 2010.

The first location to offer the new exam is at the OCCB's Annual Conference in Hunt Valley on November 12th. If you are currently registered to take the OASIS-B1 version of the exam on November 12th or any other administration between November 12th and December 31st, you will have the option of switching exam versions. **We only ask that you contact the OCCB directly to make this change prior to your exam date.**

To all COS-C's and those considering the exam, remember that the COS-C designation is good for 3 calendar years, no matter when you take the exam or which version you pass.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has sat for the COS-C examination since its inception in 2004. We've now tested over 7,000 candidates and **currently have almost 4,000 active COS-Cs** around the country! It's a great indicator to the OCCB of the growing value in being considered a certified OASIS specialist.

The OASIS Certificate and Competency Board, Inc. (OCCB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting greater reliability in OASIS data, through consistent application of guidelines provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The OCCB will facilitate this goal by offering a voluntary certificate examination which home care providers may take in order to demonstrate and establish their expertise and commitment to OASIS data accuracy. Candidates who successfully complete the examination will be awarded the Certificate OASIS Specialist - Clinical (COS-C) designation. To learn more about the OCCB visit us at www.oasiscertificate.org or call us at 337-231-6981.

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