

New CHIMA certification rules a positive step forward
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The Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) is pleased to announce that members voted, with a strong majority, to approve eligibility for those who have not taken the examination in the past, or failed it without successful re-write(s) to have an opportunity to challenge the national examination for certification.

What does this positive result mean?

- Individuals who graduated from a Canadian CCHRA-recognized program, one-year or two HRT, HRA, HRP/HIM showing proof of graduation (certified transcript) but who did not previously apply to write the certification examination can now apply to challenge the current HIM certification examination
- Individuals who possess an "A" credential who choose to challenge the certification examination and are successful will be bestowed with a "C" credential
- This is an open offer with no time limits
- Individuals may challenge the certification examination as often as is required to achieve a successful outcome
- The current certification examination is based on the new two-year based HIM curriculum and individuals who choose to challenge the examination are responsible for their own "gap analysis" to understand where they may need more study or experience prior to challenging the examination.
- Successful challenge of our national certification examination demonstrates that candidates have met the standards of the profession as set by our College, the CCHRA.
- Individuals who graduated from a Canadian CCHRA-recognized program one-year HRT, HRA, HRP/HIM program can challenge the national certification examination without taking the second year of a recognized program.

What this positive result doesn't mean:

- Individuals who graduated from a Canadian CCHRA-recognized program, one-year or two HRT, HRA, HRP/HIM and have already successfully challenged the certification examination and possess a credential of either "A - Associate" or "C - Certificant" are not required to challenge the examination nor do they lose their current credential.

What can CHIMA do to assist you should you decide to challenge the certification examination?

- CHIMA is pleased to announce that the examination will now be offered twice a year, every year beginning in 2006. The examination will be offered in July and November of each year.
- To assess your knowledge and skills, a gap analysis tool is available entitled: *Study Guide for Preparing to Challenge the CCHRA Examination*. This Study Guide can be purchased from CHIMA for \$50.00 plus shipping and handling and GST/HST.
- The Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) process is available through the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)

