



Letter from the President

J. Hudson Garrett Jr.



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) quarterly newsletter.

This newsletter is designed to be your source for the most up-to-date information about the certification process and other education programs offered by VACC.

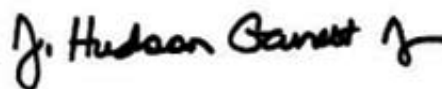
Since the organization's inception four years ago, the VACC's top priority was to develop and launch a comprehensive board certification that would encompass the entire specialty of Vascular Access. Over the past three years, an exam has been developed, tested, launched, and independently validated using a professional psychometrics partner.

I am proud to report that to date, more than 2,000 professionals have met the eligibility criteria for and successfully passed this board exam and earned the title "Vascular Access-Board Certified" (VA-BC)[™]. Additionally, the board certification has received its national, multi-disciplinary accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. The certification is nationally recognized by both the Veteran's Administration as well as the Magnet Program.

While the primary focus of VACC is on healthcare professionals working in clinical practice settings, VACC also identified the need for a formalized education process for our colleagues working in industry. As a result, approximately one year ago, the Vascular Access Industry Partner Certificate Program was developed, and to date, over 150 industry professionals have successfully completed the requirements earning the title of "Vascular Access Industry Partner." It is through collaboration and education that our partners in industry can best provide customer support, continue to innovate and deliver relevant evidence-based products, and solutions to enhance the delivery of vascular access services.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I thank you for both your continued commitment to professional certification in Vascular Access and your dedication to advancing this specialty. We encourage you to regularly visit our website, www.vacert.org, to receive the latest updates on the Vascular Access Certification Corporation. In addition, if you are interested in participating as a volunteer on our testing committees, please complete an application on our website.

Warmest regards,



J. Hudson Garrett Jr., PhD, MSN, MPH, FNP-BC, CSRN, VA-BC
President, Board of Directors
Vascular Access Certification Corporation

Congratulations to Our Certified Professionals!



Congratulations to the 306 clinicians who recently passed the VA-BC[™] examination in the December 2013 seating.

Our certification holders are among a unique and highly qualified group of health care professionals. Today, there are currently 2,081 active VA-BC[™] professionals in the US and Canada.

You can access a list of all certified clinicians on the VACC website at www.vacert.org.

VACC CE Recertification

Individuals holding the VA-BC™ certification must recertify this credential every three years. Certification renewal ensures individuals are informed of the latest developments in the field and reinforcing skills through participation in professional development activities. These activities are critical to ensure those with the VA-BC™ certification are demonstrably competent relevant to vascular access.

The recertification requirements support VACC's commitment to enhance the continued competence of the individual and validate, through certification, a specialized body of knowledge for professionals working in the field of vascular access. VACC has developed a three-year recertification cycle to ensure that the VA-BC™ professional is exposed to new developments, technological innovations and clinical advancements within the field of vascular access.

Maintaining an active certification status through recertification is the way in which certified professionals demonstrate to the public that they possess up-to-date knowledge and experience. These opportunities not only lead to enhanced knowledge for the certified vascular access professional but ultimately, to quality patient care.

The VA-BC™ credential is valid for three years.

Certificants have two options for recertifying:

Option 1: Retake the exam

Option 2: Obtain 30 Continuing Education Credits

December Testing

Those who pass a December VACC examination can begin using the designation VA-BC™ on January 1 through midnight December 31 (3 years later). Continuing Education Credits must be earned during this time frame. Only Continuing

Education Credits obtained within that period can be submitted for recertification. To ensure continued exposure to the most current practice in vascular access credits must be distributed throughout the certification cycle with at least 5 credits being earned in each year.

June Testing

Those who pass a June VACC examination can begin using the designation VA-BC™ on July 1 through midnight June 30 (3 years later). Continuing Education Credits must be earned during this timeframe. Only Continuing Education Credits obtained within that period can be submitted for recertification. To ensure continued exposure to the most current practice in vascular access credits must be distributed throughout the certification cycle with at least 5 credits being earned in each year. Unless you successfully recertify, your credential expires at the end of three years at midnight on December 31 or midnight June 30.

Recertification information and reminders will be e-mailed one year before the expiration date. It is the responsibility of the VA-BC™ certified professional to meet recertification requirements by submitting a complete recertification application and appropriate fee before published deadlines. Failure to receive a renewal notice does not relieve the candidate the responsibility to apply for certification renewal by the published application deadline. The candidate is responsible for contacting VACC with any change in address or name. A [free template](#) to track your continuing education hours is available on the VACC website for ease of tracking purposes.

To learn more information about recertification, [download the recertification handbook](#), or listen to the [Recertification Process Overview Video](#) found on the web site. Please take time to visit the VACC website www.vacert.org.

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Vascular Access Industry Partner Program™:

Enhance Your Organization's Ability to Deliver Vascular Access Solutions to Your Customer

The Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) has created a new educational program designed to enhance the basic vascular access competency for industry associates.

The program's objective is to instill the essential knowledge required to effectively understand vascular access topics as well as serve as a resource to your end user customers. This exciting program is available entirely online. In addition, a special live offering of this program will be offered at the 2014 AVA Annual Scientific Meeting as a Preconference workshop.

The new program entitled, the Vascular Access Industry Partner™ is available twenty four hours a day from any location with internet access.

This course provides 10 educational modules focusing on the following:

- Indications for Vascular Access
- Vascular Access Anatomy
- Types of Vascular Access Therapy
- Vascular Access Devices
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Special Populations: Geriatrics, Obese, and Pediatrics
- Collaboration with the Vascular Access Clinician

Program participants are given ninety (90) days to complete the 10 modules in order to successfully receive an official certificate of completion as well as access to the Vascular Access Industry Partner logo which can be proudly displayed on business cards and e-signatures. After three years, participants must renew their certificate by completing continuing education modules online.

The target audience for the program includes but not limited to:

- Sales Professionals
- Marketers
- Research and Development Professionals
- Customer Research
- Medical science liaisons
- Clinical Specialists
- Technical Support Specialists

Completion of this program will enhance your organizations associates' ability to deliver Vascular Access solutions to end user customers.

A special live offering of this program will be offered at the 2014 AVA Annual Scientific Meeting as a Preconference workshop.



Our pricing structure is detailed below with significant quantity discounts and additional discounts for AVA Corporate Partners. **The total retail fee for the VACC Industry Partners Certificate Program is \$225.**

Quantity discounts:

1-10 Participants:	None
11-20 Participants:	5%
21-50 Participants:	10%
51+ Participants:	15%

AVA Corporate Members receive discounts off their TOTAL ORDER:

Bronze Corporate Members:	1%
Gold Corporate Members:	3%
Platinum Corporate Members:	5%

Our new Vascular Access Industry Partner™ program will enhance your organization's ability to deliver Vascular Access solutions to your customers.

Learn more about the [Vascular Access Industry Partner™ program](#) or [register now](#).

For more information on the Vascular Access Industry Partner™, please contact Lois Davis, Program Director, at lois.davis@vacert.org or (508) 224-8800 ext 103 Monday thru Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm EST.

Industry Partner Program Raises Credibility

Tom Aglio, Vice President of Sales for PDI



Ask Tom Aglio, Vice President of Sales for PDI, his opinion about the [Vascular Access Industry Partner™ certificate program](#), and he'll tell you it's a hidden asset of the organization. "It's been so beneficial we're beginning the planning process to make it a part of our onboarding training program for new associates." PDI provides innovative products, educational resources, training and support to prevent infection

transmission and promote health and wellness.

Aglio, who has earned his industry certificate as well, is quick to point out there are a number of benefits to participating in the program.

"It provides instant credibility," Aglio said. "Clients see the logo on our materials, they ask about it, and it immediately demonstrates we're committed to having meaningful conversations with customers rather than just trying to sell them something. We've found we can really speak our clients' language – and that's a direct result of VACC's Industry Partner Program™."

Designed to educate industry professionals about vascular access, the program emphasizes terminology, types of devices, uses, complications with vascular access and the unique issues facing special populations.

We've found our associates can really speak our clients' language -- and that's a direct result of VACC's Industry Partner Program™.

- Tom Aglio, Vice President of Sales, PDI

While the Vascular Access industry certificate designation has raised the company's profile with health care professionals, it's also helped the company operationally as well. "The VACC's training has been well-worth the time and investment. The ROI has been exponential."

"Our company has a small training department. It would take so many resources to even attempt to create a similar – in house – program, and it still wouldn't measure up to VACC's training," Aglio said.

"VACC's educational materials are fabulous. You don't have to be highly technical or really web-centric to get through the information. The site and its various modules are easy to navigate, one module builds on the other, and are immediately useful in our organization," he said "I've printed out things like the glossary and it never leaves my desk."

To learn more about the [Vascular Access Industry Partner™ certificate program](#) and how it might help your organization, contact Lois Davis at lois.davis@vacert.org.



Stay in Touch: Keep Contact Information Current

Want to stay current on VACC news, testing information, conferences and new programs? Take a moment now to ensure your profile information is up to date or visit our home page and use the "[Update Profile](#)" button in the upper left corner.

update profile

Don't worry: we hate spam too!

We will protect your information just like our own, and never sell your contact information to outside groups. Update your profile now to ensure you receive timely information.

Be sure to add our email address info@vacert.org to your contacts list so you never miss an update.

VACC Needs Subject Matter Expert Volunteers

Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) seeks subject matter experts for the VA-BC™ certification exam. You can serve as an item writer or collaborate on the development or updating of test content or participate on the standard setting panels to establish the exam passing score.

Benefits:

- Play a dynamic role in the development of the vascular access profession.
- Enhance your curriculum vitae.
- Collaborate with your colleagues nationwide.
- Earn a reduction in the number of CE credits required to renew the VA-BC™ certification.

VACC Test Committee

The VACC Test Committee is responsible for reviewing and editing examination questions and for making the final selection of items that comprise each test form. Such matters as correctness of answers, prevention of geographic bias, language clarity and appropriateness of items are considered during the item review process. The Test Committee review constitutes a final check and balance system on the reliability of the examination. No previous experience is necessary. Training is provided by VACC's test development partner, Prometric.

Test Committee Requirements:

- A current VA-BC™ credential and actively practicing in the field of vascular access
- Commitment to a one year term with option to renew 2 times
- Ability to attend 4-6 remote meetings over the term, each meeting 2 ½ hours in length.
- Complete the VACC Conflict of Interest Disclosure Security/Confidentiality Form

VACC Item Writing

Writers are responsible for drafting proposed items to be used on the certification exam. All items will be keyed to the examination blueprint. Individuals selected for writing test questions (items) will receive training and materials on how to write a valid, defensible test question. Item writers must agree to a six month commitment and agree to submit 30 items (15 per 3 month period).

Item writers attend a specially designed training program to prepare them for this important role. Writing psychometrically sound items can be challenging, but coupling the unique knowledge of the professional with the information obtained during training will provide the item writer with skills that can be used in a variety of roles.

BENEFITS:

- Play a dynamic role in the development of the vascular access profession.
- Enhance your curriculum vitae.
- Collaborate with your colleagues nationwide.
- Earn a reduction in the number of CE credits required to renew the VA-BC™ certification.

The item writing training program is offered via webinar. The goal of this mandatory training is to acquaint writers with the information necessary to write high-quality test items.

Item writer requirements

- A current VA-BC™ credential and actively practicing in the field of vascular access
- Ability to commit to the time required to write items – approximately one-hour/item
- Agree to a six month commitment
- Successfully complete the remote item writing training
- Complete the VACC Conflict of Interest Disclosure Security/Confidentiality Form
- Agree to write 15 items per 3 month period
- Write high quality, psychometrically sound items

Following submission of 5 high quality, psychometrically sound items, the writer will receive:

One credit towards recertification of the VA-BC™ credential

Application process

Our online application is fast and easy! However you will need to have the following items available:

- Your resume or CV
- A Confidentiality Agreement

[Click here to access the pertinent documents](#) or visit www.vacert.org and click on the volunteer tab.

Ready to Become Board Certified in Vascular Access?

Join the more than 2,000 professionals that have already earned their VA-BC™ and take the next step in your career by becoming Board Certified in Vascular Access, which is administered by the Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC).

Certification exams are offered twice a year in both June and December.

Due dates for the June testing session is coming up soon!

For complete information, eligibility requirements and a detailed exam content outline, please refer to our [Important Dates and Deadlines Page](#) for complete details or to our extensive [FAQs page](#).

Not quite ready for the June exam session? December testing registration begins September 1st.

For more questions, please contact us at info@vacert.org.

June Certification Testing Dates

EARLY REGISTRATION

(AVA member price: \$300. Non-member price: \$400)*

March 1st - March 20th

FINAL REGISTRATION

(AVA member price: \$375. Non-member price: \$475)*

March 21st - April 15th

DEADLINE TO SCHEDULE EXAM APPOINTMENT WITH PROMETRIC

www.prometric.com/vacc

June 28th

*AVA is the leading multidisciplinary vascular access organization comprised of committed professionals. Nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and vascular access industry representatives have all discovered the value of professional excellence, education, and networking opportunities available through AVA membership. Review AVA [benefits](#) and [application](#).

SUBMISSION DATES FOR UPCOMING VACC NEWSLETTERS:

May 1 deadline for submissions for June issue

August 1 deadline for submissions for September issue

November 1 deadline for submissions for December issue

Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) Quarterly Newsletter

Published by: The Board of Directors for VACC

This newsletter is designed to be your source for the most up-to-date information about the certification process and other education programs offered by VACC.

We welcome comments and feedback regarding our content. Submissions for announcements, articles, or potential training opportunities may be directed to Lois Davis at lois.davis@vacert.org. All letters and articles submitted will become the property of VACC and may be published on a space available basis.

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