



January/February 2012

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## National Council For Therapeutic Recreation Certification

845.639.1439

[nctrc@nctrc.org](mailto:nctrc@nctrc.org)

[www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org)

## Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

### Happy New Year from NCTRC!

### CTRSs to Celebrate Therapeutic Recreation Month: February 2012

Therapeutic Recreation Week has now been expanded to **Therapeutic Recreation Month!** The annual promotion will now be celebrated each year during the month of February. The move to expand TR Week to TR Month is the result of collaborative discussions between the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) and the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association (CTRA). NCTRC supports conducting the event during the month of February and expanding the celebration with a month-long series of activities. The purpose of National Therapeutic Recreation Month is to enhance public awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and recreational therapy services, promote inclusive recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and recognize the CTRS as the qualified provider of RT services. According to NCTRC, recreation therapy, also known as therapeutic recreation, is a systematic process that utilizes recreation and other activity-based interventions based upon the assessed needs of individuals with illnesses and/or disabling conditions. The purpose of the RT process is to improve or maintain physical, cognitive, social, emotional and spiritual functioning in order to facilitate full participation in life. For more information... [NCTRC Scope of Practice](#).

NCTRC has developed a [TR Month Flyer](#) for promotional use. Please feel free to print this marketing tool and make several copies to display at your agency. NCTRC also offers an array of promotional materials for use at your agency during TR Month or any other time to help promote the CTRS credential and recreational therapy services. All NCTRC promotional materials can be downloaded in PDF format from the [NCTRC website](#) or you can contact NCTRC if you would like multiple copies of a specific brochure.

It is envisioned that during the TR Month promotion, CTRSs and their agencies will host a series of lectures and presentations, career days, adaptive sport events, workshops, receptions, information booths, and open houses. Proclamations, press releases, articles and public service announcements are also great ways to enhance the awareness of the CTRS credential during National Therapeutic Recreation Month. The American Therapeutic Recreation Association ([ATRA](#)) and the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association ([CTRA](#)) offer some promotional items at their respective websites to help plan the TR Month celebration.

### May Recertification and Annual Maintenance Reminder

The May 2012 renewal cycle is now in effect. NCTRC will notify CTRSs of their pending renewal date by email or postcard. Certificants can complete the CTRS renewal process on-line via [MY NCTRC LOGIN](#). Printed application packets are available upon request by contacting NCTRC at 845-639-1439. Please be sure to update your current contact information with NCTRC.

### May Recertification Exam Option

Please be advised that certificants who are at the end of the five year recertification cycle can take the NCTRC exam to meet the requirements for recertification. The May 2012 exam is the only exam that can be completed to meet the May cycle recertification requirements. The registration deadline for the May 2012 exam is March 16, 2012. Please visit the NCTRC website [www.nctrc.org](http://www.nctrc.org) to access the exam registration form. On the home page, click [Exam](#)

or use your log-in information to access the form. There are two options for submission: fill out the registration form online and submit it with a credit card payment or print and complete the registration form and mail it directly to NCTRC with a check, money order or credit card number. The dates for the May 2012 exam are May 7-11, 2012.

### **NCTRC Annual Board Meeting**

The NCTRC Board of Directors and Standing Committee Members will conduct the NCTRC Annual Meeting on April 20-21, 2012 in Newburgh, NY. The agenda for the meeting includes review and acceptance of the annual budget, proposed standards changes, and submitted committee reports. Newly elected Board Members and recently appointed Standing Committee Members will begin their three-year terms commencing with the annual meeting.

### **Demand for Allied Health Professionals Creating Shortages**

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - One of the major challenges that's facing engineering and other professions across America is also affecting the health care field — a growing lack of workers. As the “graying” of America sends more pharmacy technicians, respiratory therapists, medical assistants and other health care professionals into retirement, shortages have begun to develop. Approximately 80 million baby boomers in the U.S. are reaching retirement age and placing an increasing strain on the shrinking pool of allied health care professionals. Allied health care professionals are defined as those who have specialized training, but are not doctors or nurses.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts more than 6.1 million health care workers will be needed nationally between 2008 and 2018 to fill new jobs and replace workers who leave their jobs or retire. Of the 30 fastest-growing occupations in the labor market, more than half are in the allied health care field. [To read more...](#)

### **Did you know ...**

#### **Current Strategic Goals of NCTRC include:**

- Promoting the value of the credential
- Creating broad-based partner affiliations
- Creating global market Certification
- Leader in consumer protection

Please contact NCTRC at 845-639-1439 or [nctrc@nctrc.org](mailto:nctrc@nctrc.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Thank you for your continued support of NCTRC and the CTRS credential.**