Career Readiness Indicator Questionnaire

This questionnaire is designed to help guide the process for review of a Career Readiness Indicator (CRI). It is the responsibility of the local education agency proposing the addition of the CRI to gather the information and submit it to Josh Laney, Assistant Director for Workforce Development. Answers should be as concise as possible.

Information should be submitted as a completed packet, not piecemeal. Additional information may be included at the discretion of the applying agency if it might be pertinent to the evaluation process.

Contact information for person filling out questionnaire
Agency: SDE   Email: dstringer@alsde.edu   Phone number: 334-353-1424   Date of submittal: 8/20/15
CRI: Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT)

Why do we want this CRI?
1. What industry is asking for the CRI? (List multiple if applicable.)
   a. Hospitals
   b. Home Health Agencies
   c. Urgent Care Centers
   d. Laboratories
   e. Almost any healthcare facility can hire Patient Care Technician’s with the exception of Nursing Homes
      i. According to onetonline.org, this type job is expecting a faster than average projected growth of 15 – 21%, the pay is over $10.00/hour, and there are currently over 600 open job listings in Alabama.
      ii. There are 229 job openings from Alabama listed on the www.pctpca.com website.
      iii. There are currently 29 job openings listed just in the Montgomery Baptist facilities for a Patient Care Technician and 2 for Phlebotomist (a position for which they would also qualify)

2. What companies within the in industry are requesting this CRI? Letters of Support attached from the following: 1) DCH Health System and 2) Alabama Hospital Association

3. What entity, company, or testing agency is the “owner” of the CRI? (Who determines what it takes to earn the CRI?) Provide contact numbers, names, websites, or other info for inquiries.
   a. National Healthcareer Association (NHA) is the testing agency
   b. Laura Flynn, Senior Certification Specialist is the contact
   c. Laura.flynn@nhanow.com
   d. 913-661-5535
   e. www.nhanow.com for testing information and proctoring
   f. www.atialliedhealth.com for study guides and pretests

4. For what career technical program(s) is the CRI being requested?
   a. Health Science
How does one actually get the CRI?

5. How long does it take for a student to earn this CRI? (Answer in approximate hours of instruction, not school years or terms. Give an average or best estimate.)
   a. Approximately 120 – 180 hours
   b. There is a 120 hour course of study for PCT but many teachers begin the foundational information and skills in the Foundations of Health Science course prior to accepting a student into the PCT course.

6. How does the student earn the CRI? (Does the student have to take a written exam, log a certain number of hours, complete a skills demonstration, some combination of these, etc?)
   a. The student must complete an approved training program which includes hands-on skills and pass a written exam.
   b. Students perform skills in lab utilizing simulation.
   c. Clinical hours are not required but are frequently included as part of the Health Science program.

7. Is there a minimum age requirement for gaining the CRI?
   a. No minimum age requirement but the student must be with-in 12 months of high school graduation.

8. Are students required to be graduates before earning the CRI?
   a. A student can test and receive a PROVISIONAL certification prior to graduation as long as they are within 12 months of their graduation date.
   b. In order to have a NON-PROVISIONAL certification, the student must supply proof of successfully completing high school.

9. Are there minimum pre-requisite course requirements for earning the CRI?
   a. The student must complete an approved training program.
   b. The Health Science program instructors may apply through NHA to be listed as an approved training program.

10. What equipment is required to train for this CRI? (Only list items which are different than what would be found on the standard equipment list for the program.)
    a. Some of the items on the “optional” section of the equipment list would be required
       i. EKG or Simulation EKG equipment
       ii. Phlebotomy Simulators or Virtual Phlebotomy Trainers
    b. There are also programs that must be installed on the computers being used in the course
       i. Firefox 16 or higher
       ii. Silverlight version 4 or 5
       iii. Adobe Reader Version X or higher
11. Does the earning of the CRI require the student to have computer access for the testing?
   a. Certification testing can be written or online
   b. Pre-assessment testing is only offered online

How much does it cost and what resources are required?
12. What is the cost of the exam for earning this CRI?
   a. The current cost of the exam is $149.00 per person

13. Is there a practice test available from the CRI issuer or from other parties?
   YES
      a. If yes, does the practice test have a cost in addition to the actual exam and if so, how much?
         i. Yes
         ii. The practice test set and study guide bundle is 56.00 dollars per student
         iii. The practice test set includes five assessments and is 25.00 dollars per student
   b. Can rights to the practice material be purchased once or is there a recurring fee?
      i. The practice exams are only offered online and the purchased code can be used five times only
         1. It is expected that the same student will use all five practice tests throughout the training as a gauge of their learning and to assess test readiness.
         2. Therefore it would be a recurring fee
      ii. The study guides can be purchased online or in book form
         1. This would allow for a one time purchase

14. Who can administer the exam? (Some CRIs prohibit the person who trained the student from administering the exam.)
   a. The Health Science instructor can proctor the exam after completing the Virtual Instructor Training offered through NHA and providing the appropriate documentation for site attestation and school accreditation.
   b. A completed and signed site application, along with proof of tax exempt status must also be provided.

15. Is special certification or licensure required for a teacher to administer the CRI?
   YES
      a. If yes, what is the cost for gaining the appropriate licensure?
         i. The industry credentials required to hold a Health Science teaching certification will allow for the administration of this exam
      b. Is this a one-time or recurring fee?
         i. There is not a fee other than the standard cost the instructor garners when renewing their own industry credential
16. Is site, facility, or equipment certification required for administering the CRI?
   Site approval is required, this process is described in a previous answer
   a. If yes, what costs are included?
      i. No cost
   b. Is this a one-time or recurring fee?
      i. N/A
Brown Mylinda

Subject: Letter of Support for TCTA PCT Certification Program

Dr. Philip Cleveland
Deputy State Superintendent
Alabama State Department of Education
Office of Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development

RE: Letter of Support
TCTA PCT Certification Program

September 1, 2015

Dear Dr. Cleveland:

As the Clinical Affiliate Coordinator for DCH Health System in Tuscaloosa and Northport, I fully support the certified Patient Care Technician (PCT) Program at Tuscaloosa Career and Technology Academy (TCTA). I have been actively involved with TCTA for three years and assist with coordinating their clinical experiences within our facilities. The TCTA Students are very knowledgeable and eager to learn under the expert guidance of Faculty Sally Latham, RN and Pam Crawford, RN who recently retired from the education system. The TCTA Health Science Program is now in the capable hands of Christy Copeland, MSN, RN and Krista Champion, RN who have a strong, positive relationship with the DCH System.

DCH Health System strives to develop an agreement with TCTA to directly place in employment Patient Care Technicians having successfully completed the PCT certification process. These certified staff would be ready to enter the patient care arena after a brief interim of competency validation of skills. This qualification sets these candidates hands above our more consistent level of candidates in our general Patient Care Assistant (PCA) workforce selection pool. We currently do not require Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) nor the PCT certification as a requirement for employment. As we develop this relationship we anticipate a formal agreement would decrease the current PCA orientation from five days to likely one day allowing these candidates to precede others to their direct patient care areas at a significant cost savings to the system.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Sincerely,
Alicia Weatherby, MS, RN
Clinical Affiliate Coordinator
DCH Health System
Nursing Professional Development & Clinical Education
600 Bryant Drive East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
205-750-5182 Office
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August 27, 2015

Dr. Philip Cleveland, Deputy State Superintendent
Alabama State Department of Education
Office of Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Dear Dr. Cleveland:

The Alabama Hospital Association strongly and actively supports the Health Science Programs sponsored through the Alabama Department of Education’s Career and Technical Education. Specifically, we support the Career Readiness Indicators (CRI’s) initiative that helps to identify and prepare students to be college and career ready in the following areas:

- Certified Billing and Coding Specialist (CBCS)
- Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Certified Electronic Health Records Specialist (CEHRS)
- Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA)
- Certified EKG Technician (CET)
- Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)
- BLS Instructor with Healthcare Provider
- National Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- National Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

The Alabama Hospital Association supports this initiative, due to the intense shortage of nurses and other allied health professionals in Alabama. The demand for these health professionals far exceeds the supply in our state. Our hospitals are currently experiencing significant staffing shortages and projections for the future describe a worsening crisis unless steps are made to increase the supply.

Although each of these certifications may not be a requirement to work in Alabama hospitals, each certification is indicative of a better-prepared student who is available for immediate employment and may also be the gateway to future education in the area of

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healthcare. Our hospitals may particularly be interested in considering students with the following credentials:

- Certified Billing and Coding Specialist (CBCS)
- Certified Electronic Health Records Specialist (CEHRS)
- Certified EKG Technician (CET)
- Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)
- BLS Instructor with Healthcare Provider
- National Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

In addition to bringing potential of health careers into the focus of high school students, graduates with industry recognized CRI's can provide much needed support to many areas of patient care in our state. As the population in our state continues to grow and age, it is imperative that we seek ways to increase the number of students who will be prepared to care for our expanding and aging population. Your support of this initiative allows health care providers more access to competent, well trained workers.

If I can provide further information about our support of this initiative and Alabama’s Career and Technical Education programs, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lacy D. Gibson
Director of Human Resources and
Workforce Development