

Certified Clinical Transplant Social Worker Credential

The Society for Transplant Social Workers (STSW) offers a new credential for transplant social workers who want to demonstrate their specialized clinical expertise particular to transplantation: Certified Clinical Transplant Social Worker (CCTSW). STSW announced this new credential in October at the 23rd Annual Conference. Laurie McDonald, chair of the Society's credentialing committee, stated that "this certification provides social workers with a way to highlight their achievements in the profession and in the transplant field."

"Most patients and families are frightened and bewildered when they start the transplant evaluation," McDonald said. "CCTSWs can reassure them with expert guidance and care throughout the process." Mary Freeman, STSW President, noted:

Within the transplant community, several disciplines have developed standards for credentialing their members. Now our profession has devised standards specific to social work which will enhance professional and public recognition of our work.

To obtain the CCTSW certification, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- be a member in good standing of STSW
- hold a Master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work

Education, Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work, or equivalent

- be licensed at the highest level available to health care social workers in the jurisdiction of practice
- be currently employed as a social worker in the transplant field
- have served for a minimum of 2 years as a post-MSW social worker in the transplant field
- have experience with at least one transplant population, but be knowledgeable about other areas of transplantation as well

Founded in 1986, STSW has been committed to promoting professional excellence and ethical clinical social work practice in transplantation. The Society has continuously provided opportunities for professional growth, communication, and mutual support among transplant social workers. It has advanced social work practice through education, research, and publication on psychosocial issues in transplantation.

"The CCTSW credential was clearly the next step for the Society," McDonald said. "It will help members distinguish themselves in today's competitive market and promote professionalism within the transplant social work community."

For more information about the new CCTSW program, please visit STSW's Web site at www.transplant-socialworker.org and click on "About the Society."