



Summary of the 2020 Certification Examinations Results and Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education Applications

03/2021

The mission of the Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education (CBDCE) is to promote comprehensive and ongoing quality diabetes clinical management, education, prevention and support by defining, developing, maintaining, and protecting the certification and credentialing processes.

To inform the public, potential candidates, and those currently holding the Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist or CDCES credential, formerly known as the Certified Diabetes Educator® (CDE®) credential, CBDCE each year publishes a summary of the results of the certification examinations for diabetes care and education (Examination) administered the previous year and the results of renewal of certification by continuing education applications processed the previous year.

Certification Examination for Diabetes Educators — 2020

The current Examination Content Outline was implemented beginning with the July 2019 examinations, reflecting the results of a 2018 practice analysis that will be in effect until a new practice analysis is completed. Questions on the Examination were linked directly to a task or tasks on the pertinent Examination Content Outline. Each question, therefore, was designed to test if the candidate possessed the knowledge necessary to perform the task or had the ability to apply it to a job situation.

Since 2016, CBDCE has offered year-round application submission and testing. Individuals apply to take the Examination year-round at a time convenient to their own schedules, and the online Examination registration is a fast and simple process. Once approved, individuals have 90 days to schedule and take the Examination.

A total of 1,449 candidates took the Examination in 2020. Of the total, 74% took the Examination for the first time, 20% had previously taken the Examination, but had not passed, 2% were previously certified individuals whose credentials had expired, and 4% renewed certification status. Beginning in March 2020, the number of candidates taking the Examination was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in the number of test takers being significantly lower than past years.

Pass/Fail Statistics for the 2020 Year

2020 Year	Total	Pass	Fail
Candidates writing the Examination for the first time-standard pathway	1065	67%	33%
Candidates writing the Examination for the first time-unique qualifications pathway	7	57%	43%
Candidates renewing certification by Examination	60	98%	2%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired 2019	13	69%	31%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired prior to 2018	22	82%	18%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)	279	53%	47%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)-unique qualifications pathway	3	49%	51%
Total Testing Candidates in 2020	1449	73%	27%

2020 Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education Administration

There were no changes to the requirements for renewal of certification by continuing education in 2020. Renewal by continuing education (CE) in 2020 required that CDCESs hold the license or registration for the same discipline held at the time of initial certification and, during the five year recertification cycle, a) meet the renewal practice requirement of 1000 hours of professional practice, and b) earn 75 hours of CE in content areas applicable to diabetes. For those CDCESs who meet the practice experience requirement, the renewal by CE option may be used each time recertification is due. A CDCES® who cannot document meeting the practice requirement must accrue the required hours of CE at the time of application for the Examination and successfully pass the Examination.

A total of 2,938 CDCESs submitted applications for renewal by CE; more than 99% successfully completed the process.

CBDCE



CBDCE, formerly known as the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE), was established in 1986 to promote the interests of diabetes educators, now known as diabetes care and education specialists, and the public at large by granting certification to qualified health professionals involved in the care and education of persons with diabetes through the establishment of eligibility requirements and development of a written Examination. The CBDCE certification process is a voluntary testing program used to assess the qualified health professional's knowledge in diabetes care and education. CBDCE is committed to maintaining the quality and integrity of the CDCES credential.

CDCES Credential

The credential demonstrates to people with prediabetes and diabetes, employers, and third party payers that the CDCES possesses distinct and specialized knowledge, thereby promoting quality of care for people with diabetes. When the first Examination was offered in 1986, 1,248 health professionals successfully completed the certification process to become the inaugural group of CDEs. The CDE credential transitioned to the new title of CDCES in 2020. There were 19,716 CDCES credentialed health professionals as of January 1, 2021. The CDCES credential has become the recognized standard for competence in diabetes care and education. As the number of individuals diagnosed with prediabetes and diabetes continues to increase, it is important for them to have access to the services of a CDCES.