



Summary of the 2021 Certification Examinations Results and Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education Applications

04/2022

The mission of the Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education (CBDCE) is to promote quality diabetes care, education, prevention and support by providing certification and credentialing programs that incorporate and reflect best practices.

To inform the public, potential candidates, and those currently holding the Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist® (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 specialists (Examination) administered the previous year and the results of renewal of certification by continuing education pathway (Renewal by CE) applications processed the previous year.

Certification Examination for Diabetes Educators — 2021

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.

Beginning in January 2022, candidates have the option of testing at a PSI testing center or via Live Remote Proctoring (LRP).

A total of 1,454 candidates took the Examination in 2021. Of the total, 73% took the Examination for the first time, 19% had previously taken the Examination, 3% were previously certified individuals whose credentials had expired, and 4% renewed certification status. In March 2020 through 2021, 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 in years prior to 2020. There were also some dates that were unavailable for scheduling or taking the Examination in December due to the planned launch of LRP in early 2022.

Pass/Fail Statistics for the 2021 Year

2021 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	4	50%	50%
Candidates renewing certification by Examination	62	95%	5%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired 2020	21	90%	10%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired prior to 2020	19	95%	5%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)	281	45%	55%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)-unique qualifications pathway	2	50%	50%
Total Testing Candidates in 2021	1454	65%	35%

2021 Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education Pathway (Renewal by CE) Administration

There were no changes to the requirements for renewal of certification by continuing education in 2021; however, the late window deadline to apply for renewal by CE was extended from December 15 to December 31 to coincide with the certification expiration date. Renewal by CE in 2021 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) meeting the renewal practice requirement of 1000 hours of professional practice; and b) earning 75 hours of continuing education in content areas applicable to diabetes. For CDCESs who meet the practice experience requirement, renewal by CE may be used for each renewal. A CDCES® who cannot document meeting the practice requirement must accrue the required hours or CE at the time of application for the Examination and successfully pass the Examination.

A total of 2,655 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. Through the end of 2021, there were 19,594 CDCES® credentialed health professionals. 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®.