



## **Summary of the 2023 Certification Examinations Results and Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education Applications**

4/2024

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, CBDCE 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 Care and Education Specialists — 2023**

The current Examination Content Outline (ECO) 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 ECO. 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. A new ECO reflecting the results of a 2023 practice analysis that surveyed diabetes care and education specialists about the tasks they performed will go into effect July 1, 2024.

CBDCE has offered year-round application submission and testing since 2016. 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 were able to choose between taking the Examination in-person at a testing center or virtually via live remote proctoring (LRP). Based on the 2023 examination data, a total of 351 candidates tested via LRP had an average pass rate of 56%; compared with 1441 candidate testing at a testing center with an average pass rate of 68%.

A total of 1792 candidates took the Examination in 2023. Of the total, 75% took the Examination for the first time, 20% had previously taken the Examination, 3% were previously certified individuals whose credentials had expired, and 2% renewed certification status. Refer to Table 1. Pass/Fail Examination Statistics for more details.

Report continues on the following page.

**Table 1. Pass/Fail Examination Statistics – 2023**

2023 Year (All modalities)	Total	Pass %	Not Successful
Candidates writing the Examination for the first time-standard pathway	1339	70%	30%
Candidates writing the Examination for the first time-unique qualifications pathway	9	56%	44%
Candidates renewing certification by Examination	49	92%	8%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired 2022	26	77%	23%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired prior to 2022	8	100%	100%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)	360	45%	54%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)-unique qualifications pathway	1	0%	100%
Total Testing Candidates in 2023	1792	66%	34%

**Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education Pathway Administration - 2023**

There were no changes to the requirements for renewal of certification by continuing education (Renewal by CE) option in 2023. Renewal by CE in 2023 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 continuing education (CE) 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 practice or CE hours at the time of application for the Examination and successfully pass the Examination.

To support continued competence and further promote quality diabetes care and education, the CBDCE Board of Directors made the following changes to the requirement for renewal by CE, effective with CDCESs renewing in 2025 and later: (1) required to participate in two (2) CE activities (either in-person or virtual) related to the annual release of American Diabetes Association’s Standards of Care for Diabetes; and (2) are encouraged, but not required, to participate in CE activities that cover the following topics: education principals, diabetes-related technology, leadership, population health, or diversity, equity, inclusion or accessibility in support of the change in the specialty. These changes will take effect with CDCESs renewing in 2025 and later and communications on the change began in spring 2023 and will continue into 2024.

A total of 2,778 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 2023, there were 19,495 CDCES® credentialed health professionals. cite date April, 2024The 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®.