



National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators

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Summary of the 2018 Certification Examinations and Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education

4/2019

The mission of the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE) 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 Educator® (CDE®) credential, NCBDE each year publishes a summary of the results of the certification examinations for diabetes educators (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 — 2018

The current Examination Content Outline was implemented beginning with the 2014 Examinations reflecting the results of a 2013 practice analysis that will be in effect until June 30, 2019. A new Examination Content Outline reflecting the results of a 2018 practice analysis that surveyed diabetes educators about the tasks they performed will be in effect July 1, 2019. Questions on the Examination are linked directly to a task or tasks. Each question, therefore, is designed to test if the candidate possesses the knowledge necessary to perform the task or has the ability to apply it to a job situation.

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

A total of 1,862 candidates took the exam in 2018. Of the total, 69.5% took the examination for the first time, 22% had previously taken the examination, but had not passed, 2.4% were previously certified individuals whose credentials had expired, and 6% renewed certification status.

Pass/Fail Statistics for the 2018 Year

2018 Year	Total	Pass	Fail
Candidates writing the examination for the first time-standard pathway	1275	67.00%	33.00%
Candidates writing the examination for the first time-unique qualifications pathway	20	30.00%	70.00%
Candidates renewing certification by examination	110	92.72%	7.28%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired 2017	17	78.26%	21.74%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired prior to 2017	27	82.35%	17.65%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)	404	47.77%	52.23%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)-unique qualifications pathway	9	11.11%	88.89%
Total Testing Candidates in 2018	1862	64.12%	35.88%

2018 Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education

There were no changes to the requirements for renewal of certification by continuing education in 2018. Renewal by continuing education (CE) in 2018 required that CDEs 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 CDEs who meet the practice experience requirement, the renewal by CE option may be used each time recertification is due. A CDE® 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.

To support lifelong learning and continuing competence, several activities beyond formal CE activities - identified as “Expanded Activities” - were approved by the NCBDE Board of Directors for use by CDEs pursuing renewal via the CE option and became available to CDEs renewing in 2017. The Expanded Activities include academic coursework, giving presentations, authoring publications, and serving as a Mentor in the NCBDE mentorship program. A minimum of 45 of the required 75 CE hours must still be accrued using formal CE activities. The Expanded Activities must be applicable to diabetes and there are limits on the number of hours that can be claimed in the qualifying categories.

A total of 2,844 CDEs submitted applications for renewal of certification by continuing education; more than 99% successfully completed the process.

NCBDE



NCBDE was established in 1986 to promote the interests of diabetes educators and the public at large by granting certification to qualified health care professionals involved in teaching persons with diabetes through the establishment of eligibility requirements and development of a written examination. When the first examination was offered in 1986, 1,248 health care providers successfully completed the certification process to become the inaugural group of CDEs. The NCBDE certification process is a voluntary testing program used to assess the qualified health care professional's knowledge in diabetes self-management education. There were 19,783 credentialed CDE® health professionals as of January 1, 2019.

CDE® Credential

The credential demonstrates to people with prediabetes and diabetes, employers, and third party payers that the CDE® possesses distinct and specialized knowledge, thereby promoting quality of care for people with diabetes. This certification has become the recognized standard for competence in diabetes self-management education and support. 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 CDEs. NCBDE is committed to maintaining the quality and integrity of the CDE® credential.