



Summary of the 2019 Certification Examinations Results and Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education Applications

4/2020

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 — 2019

A new Examination Content Outline reflecting the results of a 2018 practice analysis that surveyed diabetes educators about the tasks they performed was in effect as of July 1, 2019. For January – June 2019, the Examination Content Outline reflected the results of a 2013 practice analysis. 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 exam registration is a fast and easy process. Once approved, individuals have 90 days to schedule and take the examination.

A total of 1,949 candidates took the exam in 2019. Of the total, 70% took the examination for the first time, 21% had previously taken the examination, but had not passed, 1.8% were previously certified individuals whose credentials had expired, and 6% renewed certification status.

Pass/Fail Statistics for the 2019 Year

2019 Year	Total	Pass	Fail
Candidates writing the examination for the first time-standard pathway	1360	70%	30%
Candidates writing the examination for the first time-unique qualifications pathway	25	32%	68%
Candidates renewing certification by examination	116	97%	3%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired 2018	16	100%	0%
Candidates with expired credentials – expired prior to 2018	19	74%	26%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)	407	44%	56%
Candidates repeating due to unsuccessful previous attempt(s)-unique qualifications pathway	6	50%	50%
Total Testing Candidates in 2019	1949	66%	34%

2019 Renewal of Certification by Continuing Education Administration

There were no changes to the requirements for renewal of certification by continuing education in 2019. Renewal by continuing education (CE) in 2019 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.

To support lifelong learning and continuing competence, several activities beyond formal CE activities - identified as “Expanded Activities” were approved by the CBDCE Board of Directors for use by CDCESs pursuing renewal via the CE option and became available to CDCESs renewing in 2017. The Expanded Activities include academic coursework, giving presentations, authoring publications, and serving as a Mentor in the CBDCE 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 2,980 CDCESs submitted applications for renewal of certification by continuing education; 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 19,905 CDCES credentialed health professionals as of January 1, 2020. This certification 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.