



CBDCE at a Glance

CBDCE Mission: Promote ongoing quality diabetes care, education, prevention & support by providing certification and credentialing programs that incorporate and reflect best practices.

CBDCE Vision: All persons at risk for or living with diabetes receive education and/or services from CBDCE credentialed individuals

CBDCE Values:

1. Uphold Integrity
2. Commit to Quality and Innovation
3. Cultivate Diversity and Inclusion
4. Foster Collaboration
5. Act with Empathy and Respect

About CBDCE: CBDCE is a national not-for-profit, 501(c)(6), certification board that administers the Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist® (CDCES) credential. The certification program, with over 19,500 health professionals holding the credential, is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

CBDCE was founded in 1986 to develop and administer a certification program for health professionals who facilitate people in acquiring the knowledge, skill, and ability necessary for prediabetes and diabetes self-care, as well as activities that assist a person in implementing and sustaining the health practices needed to manage the condition on an ongoing basis, beyond or outside of formal self-management training. CBDCE supports the concept of voluntary, periodic certification for all health professionals who meet credential and experience eligibility requirements.

Credential & Organization Name Changes (2020): The CDCES certification was formerly known as Certified Diabetes Educator® (CDE®). The organization name also was also changed from the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE) to Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education (CBDCE).

About the Credential: The CDCES credential is a health professional who possesses comprehensive knowledge of and experience in diabetes prevention, prediabetes, and diabetes management. The CDCES educates, supports, and advocates for people affected by diabetes, addressing the stages of diabetes throughout the lifespan. The CDCES promotes self-management to achieve individualized behavioral and treatment goals that reduce risks and optimize health outcomes. The CDCES credential is held by registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, registered dietitian nutritionists, pharmacists, physicians, PAs, and other health professionals participating as members of the diabetes care team. The certification examination for diabetes care and education specialists is designed and intended for health professionals who have responsibilities that include the direct provision of diabetes care and education (DCE), as defined by CBDCE. The credential is a professionally recognized achievement and a sought-after mark of excellence in the diabetes community.

Certification Statistics:

Over 19,500* individuals holding the credential. (*January 2022). 22% of those individuals are under the age of 40. Over 1,000 newly certified health professionals have earned their CDCES certification each year for the last five years.

CDCES Resources and Services: CBDCE is dedicated to supporting CDCESs at every stage of their careers, as well as employers and students, as part of our commitment to offering exceptional diabetes specialty certification programs, demonstrating the value of certification, and advocating for Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialists.

Besides offering a rigorous certification program, CBDCE:

- Provides a Continuing Education (CE) tracking tool
- Maintains a Find a CDCES Directory that helps people with diabetes locate a CDCES in their area
- Provides a free online verification system that helps employers and people with diabetes verify an individual's certification status
- Administers a mentorship program that supports health professionals' efforts to meet the experience requirement to qualify for certification, as well as a Mentor Spotlight Award
- Supports diversity in the CDCES community through a series of targeted scholarships that cover expenses related to applying for initial certification
- Offers an online shop to order CDCES-branded merchandise including lapel pins, ID/badge holders, water bottles, and more
- Collaborates with other diabetes-related organizations on important initiatives that support positive outcomes for people with diabetes
- Monitors legislative activities and encourage action when needed for situations that affect people with diabetes certificants, and the certification industry

“It is crucial to have a CDCES as a team member in the hospital, as well as, outpatient setting. The credential empowers the patient to implement care that the physician prescribed and learn day-to-day lifestyle management. Not only does the CDCES educate, they also encourage and collaborate on how to manage and improve care. CDCESs are a vital part of the diabetes management team and have the time to spend with patients that physicians do not always have to help achieve the best outcomes.”

Rebecca Morrison, BSN, RN, CDCES, Marietta, GA

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