



National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators

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NCBDE ANNOUNCES CHANGES REGARDING INITIAL CERTIFICATION EFFECTIVE 2014

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Arlington Heights, Illinois - The National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE) recently approved two major changes effective 2014 related to initial certification as a diabetes educator.

NCBDE is very aware of the need for qualified diabetes educators to be available to help the increasing numbers of people affected by prediabetes and diabetes achieve the best outcomes. In April, NCBDE announced an addition to the list of health professionals who can qualify for initial certification beginning in 2014 – the Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) – a credential awarded by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

This past June, NCBDE approved another change to eligibility requirements. In the past, only volunteer diabetes self-management education (DSME) practice hours accrued through the Diabetes Education Mentorship Program could be accepted as part of the required 1000 hours of DSME needed for initial certification. Beginning in 2014, any volunteer DSME hours of practice experience can be counted towards eligibility. As with any eligibility requirement, verification of volunteer DSME hours will be needed if an applicant is randomly chosen for an audit.

In addition, NCBDE is also announcing an alternative pathway for eligibility to become a Certified Diabetes Educator® (CDE®) – known as the Unique Qualifications Pathway – for individuals providing diabetes education that do not qualify under the current list of health professionals applying for initial certification. This pathway is designed for health professionals holding an advanced degree in a health-related area/concentration from a United States college or university that is accredited by a nationally recognized regional accrediting body to pursue certification. This pathway has different eligibility requirements and involves a “pre-application” process. The information and application for the Unique Qualifications Pathway will be available shortly on the NCBDE web site. Individuals approved through this pathway will be able to take the CDE® examination beginning in 2014.

With the expansion of qualifying practice hours and the development of the alternative pathway, NCBDE hopes more health professionals will pursue a passion for diabetes education and, ultimately, certification as diabetes educators, the gold standard that helps the public and the health care industry identify a health professional with knowledge and experience in diabetes education.



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ABOUT NCBDE

NCBDE was established in 1986 to develop and administer a certification program for health professionals who teach individuals with diabetes how to manage their disease. Currently, over 17,870 health professionals hold the CDE[®] credential. The mission of the organization is to define, develop, maintain and protect the certification and credentialing process to promote quality diabetes education. Through the program, NCBDE recognizes and advances the specialty practice of diabetes education. NCBDE supports the concept of voluntary, periodic certification for all diabetes educators who meet credential and experience eligibility requirements. For more information, visit the web site at www.ncbde.org or contact the national office at info@ncbde.org or (877) 239-3233.

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