

Hospice Medical Director Certification Board (HMDCB)

New Continuing Certification Program (CCP) FAQ Sheet

Q. Why is the Continuing Certification Program changing?

A. Modifying the CCP was identified by certificants as a priority of the organization in a 2020 survey. After careful consideration, the Board determined that to ensure the Continuing Certification Program best meets the needs of certificants and aligns with what other medical boards are implementing for recertification, it was imperative to explore modifying the CCP. Over the past two years, HMDCB has taken a deliberate and thoughtful approach to determine how best to modify the program. A task force of certificants partnered with HMDCB staff and a certification consultant to gather certificant feedback, complete an environmental scan of how other physician boards design their recertification programs, review best practices in adult learning theory, and draft several program changes that were thoroughly investigated for feasibility and value. Upon completion of this work, it was determined that a longitudinal assessment model would provide the most value for certificants. The goal of this new program is to provide opportunities for continued learning and accurately assess the competency, skill, and judgement of certified physicians on a continuous basis.

Q. What are the new program requirements?

A. The new program will require certificants to participate in a longitudinal assessment on an annual basis to maintain their credential. The below requirements must be met annually:

1. Continuously hold a current, active, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States or its territories or any province of Canada.
2. Successfully complete approximately 25 longitudinal assessment questions.
3. Complete Code of Professional Conduct attestation.
4. Pay annual fee.

Q. Will I still need to submit continuous learning points (CME & Professional Development) to maintain my HMDC credential?

A. No, certificants will no longer be required to submit continuous learning points (CME & Professional Development) to maintain their credential. The completion of the annual assessment questions will ensure certificants are staying up to date in hospice medicine, as well as gaining new knowledge.

Q. What is the annual fee and what does it include?

A. The annual fee is still being determined as there are several variables to consider, including technology and assessment development costs. Once these items are finalized, the annual fee will be shared with certificants. The fee will include access to the annual longitudinal assessment questions, HMDCB Coffee Chats and webinars, as well as discounts on CME events offered by our partners.

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Q. When am I required to start participating in the new CCP?

A. Your current credential's expiration date will determine when you are required to begin participating in the new program. If you do not remember when your credential expires, visit the [My HMDCB Certification Center](#) or email staff at info@hmdcb.org.

Expire in 2023: As someone whose credential expires prior to the new CCP being launched, you have two options for recertification.

Option 1: Meet the [current CCP requirements](#) and take the recertification exam in 2023. If you pass, your credential will be valid through **November 30, 2029** and you will not have to participate in the new CCP until **January 1, 2030**.

Option 2: Be grandfathered into the new CCP by completing the online application, submitting the [required continuous learning points](#), and submitting the [current CCP fee](#) in 2023. You will **not** be required to take the recertification exam this year. If you choose this option, your credential will expire at the end of 2023 and you will be required to participate in the new CCP starting in 2024.

Expire in 2024: As someone who is eligible to recertify a year early in 2023, you have two options for recertification.

Option 1 : *Recertify in 2023* - You can meet the [current CCP requirements](#) and take the recertification exam in 2023. If you pass, your credential will be valid through **November 30, 2030** and you will not have to participate in the new CCP until **January 1, 2031**.

Option 2: *Recertify in 2024* - You can choose to wait until next year to recertify. This means you do **not** have to apply, submit CME, pay a fee, or take the recertification exam in 2023. If you select this option, you will be required to start participating in the new CCP once it launches in 2024.

Expire in 2025-2029: HMDCB will honor your ***current expiration date***. You will be required to participate in the new program the year following your current expiration date (e.g., if your current credential **expires on November 30, 2025**, you are required to begin participating in the new CCP on **January 1, 2026**). The previous CCP requirements (including the submission of 150 Continuous Learning Points) will not apply and you will automatically be enrolled in the new program once your current credential expires.

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Q. How will the longitudinal assessment questions be delivered?

A. The longitudinal assessment will be delivered online via a certification platform. The questions will not be proctored, so certificants can answer all questions at one time or at various times throughout the year. HMDCB will notify certificants once a platform has been selected.

Q. Will CME/MOC be provided for participating in the new program?

A. There are several requirements that must be met for a program to be eligible for CME/MOC credit. HMDCB is currently investigating these requirements and keeping this top of mind as we develop the new program. HMDCB will keep certificants updated on this important question.

Q. Will the current Content Blueprint be used to develop the longitudinal assessment questions?

A. Yes, HMDCB's current [Content Blueprint](#) will be used to develop all longitudinal assessment questions. This is the same form that is currently used to develop exam questions.

Q. How will the longitudinal assessment questions be developed?

A. A group of HMDCB-certified hospice physicians will write and review all questions for the longitudinal assessment. This means questions will be developed by physicians who are involved in the day-to-day work of a hospice physician and understand the intricacies of this work.

Q. What happens if I do not participate in the new Continuing Certification Program?

A. It is the certified hospice physician's responsibility to renew their certification on an annual basis. If requirements are not met by the annual deadline, physicians must stop using the credential until they are reinstated. *This does not apply to physicians who experience extenuating circumstances and notify HMDCB accordingly.*

Q. Where can I learn more about the new program?

A. To learn more about the new program, we encourage you to [watch this video](#) from Tommie Farrell, MD HMDC FAAHPM, [submit questions](#) online, attend an upcoming [Town Hall](#), and check your email regularly for updates.