

Hospice Medical Director Certification Board (HMDCB)

New Continuing Certification Program FAQ Sheet

Q. Why is the Continuing Certification Program changing?

A. Modifying the Continuing Certification Program (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 30 longitudinal assessment items and meet the identified competency level. *This is not a high-stakes examination. The assessment will be open book, untimed, and questions can be re-answered until the identified competency level is achieved.*
 3. Complete Code of Professional Conduct attestation.
 4. Pay annual fee.

Q. How do I successfully complete the longitudinal assessment?

A. The longitudinal assessment is meant to be a continuous learning opportunity for certificants, not serve as a high-stakes exam. Although an identified competency level (pass score) will be required, each question will be untimed and open book, providing certificants the opportunity to research potential answers. Instant feedback will be provided after each question is answered – this will include confirmation of the correct answer, a rationale to support the correct answer, and a list of references. If the pass score is achieved on a certificant’s first attempt, they will have successfully completed the longitudinal assessment and no further action is needed. If the pass score is not achieved, certificants will need to re-answer the questions they answered incorrectly until the pass score is met. *Note, questions can be re-answered an unlimited number of times.* The goal is for certificants to learn from the questions answered incorrectly by reviewing the rationale and references provided.

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Q. When will the longitudinal assessment questions be available?

A. The longitudinal assessment will launch in early 2024. Further details about the launch date will be provided once finalized. Going forward, certificants will have access to the longitudinal assessment on an annual basis from January – October 31.

Q. What happens if I do not achieve the pass score by the CCP deadline?

A. If a certificant does not achieve the pass score by the CCP deadline, they may be reinstated per the guidelines in HMDCB's *Partial Completion* policy. *This policy does not apply to physicians who experience extenuating circumstances and notify HMDCB accordingly.*

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

A. The CCP fee will be **\$199 annually**. 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. The fee will support the cost of administering, developing, and delivering the assessment.

Q. How will the longitudinal assessment questions be delivered?

A. The longitudinal assessment will be delivered online via a new certification system supported through [Oasis 360 Factor](#). The questions will not be proctored, so certificants can answer all questions at one time or at various times throughout the annual cycle.

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 cease use of the credential until they are reinstated. Certificants may be reinstated per the guidelines in HMDCB's *Reinstatement* policy. *This policy does not apply to physicians who experience extenuating circumstances and notify HMDCB accordingly.*

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

A. No, certificants will no longer be required to submit continuous learning points (CME & Professional Activities) 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.

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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 during the 2023 cycle.

Option 1: Meet the [current CCP requirements](#) and take the recertification exam in 2023. If you pass, your credential will be valid through **December 31, 2029** and you will not have to participate in the new CCP until **2029** (the year your recertified credential expires).

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 current credential will expire on **December 31, 2024** and you will be required to participate in the new CCP once it launches in early 2024.

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

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 **December 31, 2030** and you will not have to participate in the new CCP until **2030** (the year your recertified credential expires).

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 your current credential expires (e.g., if your current credential **expires on November 30, 2025**, you are required to begin participating in the new CCP in 2025). 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. Will a new certificate be provided annually?

A. Yes, after successful completion of the longitudinal assessment questions, certificants can access a digital certificate in the new continuing certification center. This certificate can be downloaded and/or printed for display.

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. Unfortunately, since HMDCB is not an accredited CME provider, we cannot currently provide certificants with CME/MOC for participating in the longitudinal assessment.

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 the initial 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 in partnership with HMDCB's psychometrician. 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. 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, and check your email regularly for updates.