

Frequently Asked Questions

Job-related questions

Does my employer need to change my job title to diabetes care and education specialist?

No. Interestingly, most AADE members who refer to themselves as diabetes educators today do not hold the job title of “diabetes educator.” When reviewing the AADE member database list of titles, fewer than 15% had diabetes educator as their actual title. More common were titles such as diabetes program manager, diabetes care coordinator, etc.

Will this change result in a pay increase for me?

The AADE Board’s intent in making this change is to clearly reflect the value that diabetes care and education specialists bring to the diabetes care team. It is not to position the field at a higher pay level. Over this time however, as the specialty continues to demonstrate the value we have for the person with diabetes and the care team, as healthcare systems increasingly move to value-based payment systems, and as we as diabetes care and education specialist step in to practice at the top of our practice and demonstrate our true value, our pay should reflect it.

CDE-related questions

Many of the questions we received at the annual conference revolved around the Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE®) credential. Overtime some have used “CDE” to reflect or encompass the entire specialty, however it’s important to remember that this is not an accurate description. The CDE is a credential managed by the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators and the title CDE is used by those who have qualified for and passed the exam. Just over 50% of AADE members practicing as diabetes educators hold the CDE credential, but it is not a requirement to work in diabetes education. That said, the CDE credential is a highly valued and critically important mark of distinction for those who have obtained it. AADE asked National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE) to address the following questions. Their answers can be found below.

How does this change the Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) credential?

Repositioning the specialty to diabetes care and education specialist does not automatically change the title of the CDE credential. The National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators owns and administers the CDE program. NCBDE leadership and staff have been involved in the AADE Board decision-making process from the start. While the NCBDE Board is considering the impact of the specialty title change on the credential’s name, no decision has been reached at this time.

Will diabetes care and education specialists need to retake the CDE exam?

No. Changing the name of the specialty will not require anyone to retake the CDE exam.

Will the change in the title of the specialty to diabetes care and education specialists effect my eligibility or requirements to take the CDE exam?

Not at this time. Repositioning the title of the specialty will not currently affect the eligibility requirements to sit for the CDE exam. Any changes in eligibility requirements that might occur in the future would be based on activity in the field and announced in advance of implementation.