

National Asthma Educator Certification Board

National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB) Update

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Developed by the
National Asthma Educator Certification Board of Directors

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The Certified Asthma Educator

- Identifies strengths, resources, psychological factors, the social & economic impact of asthma, educational needs & barriers to healthcare & self-management.
- Collaborates with individuals, families, health care professionals to develop, implement, monitor & revise customized asthma action plans for self-management.
- Monitors asthma education program outcomes & recommends modifications to improve quality & effectiveness.
- Serves as a community resource by providing asthma information as well as healthcare resources.

Why is Certification Important?

- Role of the Asthma Educator has increased over time as research has shown the importance of a well-educated, informed patient in the management of this chronic disease.
- Need for standardize process to certify Asthma Educators/Coordinators/Counselors and to evaluate their effectiveness in disease management
- Certification assures that information obtained from a Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C) is based on scientifically sound concepts of disease management

Mission Statement

To promote optimal asthma management and quality of life among individuals with asthma, their families and communities, by advancing excellence in asthma education through the Certified Asthma Educator process.

Who Is the Certified Asthma Educator?

An expert in teaching, educating, counseling who:

- Has a comprehensive, current knowledge of asthma pathophysiology & management including:
 - Developmental theories
 - Impact of chronic illness
 - Cultural dimensions
 - Principles of teaching-learning
- Is knowledgeable about objective & subjective measures used to diagnose & assess asthma control
- Capably instructs about the optimal use of medications & delivery devices, explaining technical concepts in understandable language

About the National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB)

- Voluntary health certifying board established in 2001
- Purpose:
 - To prepare examinations to test the qualifications of candidates for certification as asthma educators
 - To conduct and evaluate these examinations

Examination Eligibility Requirements

The following currently U.S. licensed or credentialed health care professionals may be admitted to the examination:

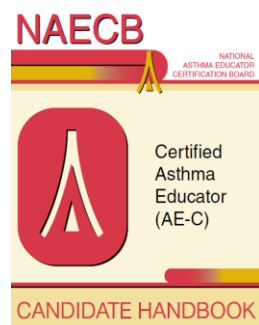
- Physicians (MD, DO)
- Physician Assistants (PA-C)
- Nurses (RN, LPN, NP)
- Respiratory Therapists (RRT, CRT)
- Pulmonary Function Technologists (CPFT, RPFT)
- Pharmacists (RPh)
- Social Workers (CSW)
- Health Educators (CHES)
- Physical Therapists (PT)
- Occupational Therapists (OT)

Board of Directors Composition

- Nine to 17 voting members
- Represent multiple health care professionals in asthma education, counseling & coordination with *at least* one from each of these disciplines:
 - Behavioral scientist
 - Health educator
 - Nurse
 - Pharmacist
 - Physician
 - Respiratory therapist
- Also, a Public Member & an At-Large Member
- Representation by competency & discipline, not by organization; with majority having AE-C

Candidate Handbook

The handbook is available on the website and is comprehensive with sample questions, DCO, and operations of taking the exam.



Examination Eligibility Requirements

One of the previous credentials

OR

Individuals providing direct patient asthma education, counseling, coordination services with a minimum of **1000 hours** experience in above services.

Evolution of the NAECB

- In 1999, representatives from more than 50 stakeholders groups met to discuss the need for an asthma educator certification process.
- First Board of Directors meeting was held in 2000.
- Exam was offered for the first time on September 19, 2002.

Job Analysis

- The exam was developed over 18 months and is based on a national job analysis.
- The matrix is a result of the national job analysis and is based on sound scientific evidence for development.
- The difficulty of the test is accounted for in the final cut score determination.

NAECB Exam Categories

MAJOR CATEGORY	% of TEST QUESTIONS
I. The Asthma Condition	20%
II. Patient & Family Assessment	26%
III. Asthma Management	43%
IV. Organizational Issues	11%

Derived from the Asthma Educator Job Tasks Survey

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NAECB Exam Categories

NAECB		CERTIFIED ASTHMA EDUCATOR (AE-C®) CANDIDATE HANDBOOK			
● CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION FOR ASTHMA EDUCATORS DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE					
Open cells show an examination could include items from indicated cognitive levels. Shaded cells prevent appearance of items on examinations.		Cognitive Levels			
		Recall	Application	Analysis	TOTALS
I. THE ASTHMA CONDITION		9	20	1	30
A. Pathophysiology		4	0	0	10
1. Teach an individual with asthma and their family using simple language by illustrating the following with appropriate educational aids					
a. normal pulmonary anatomy and physiology					
b. alterations in lung anatomy and physiology that characterize asthma e.g.					
• inflammation					
• bronchial hyperresponsiveness					
• bronchial wall edema					
• excess mucous secretion					
• smooth muscle contractions					
c. immediate and potential long-term sequelae of airway inflammation e.g.					
• hyperresponsiveness					
• airway remodeling					
d. processes occurring in the lungs during an asthma exacerbation					
2. Explain					
a. terms used to characterize asthma e.g.					
• severity					
• control					
• impairment					
• risk					

National Asthma Educator Certification Examination Detailed Content Outline Summary

- III. Asthma Management
 - o Medications and Delivery Devices
 - o Behavioral and Environmental Modifications
 - o Developmental Implementation, and Evaluation of an Asthma Management Plan
- IV. Organizational Issues
 - o Program Outcomes
 - o Referral and Professional Networking

Challenges

- Health professionals are well-trained in exam content areas I, II, & III, such as the asthma condition, patient and family assessment, and asthma management.
- Category IV involves program development, implementation and evaluation.
- While these topics were identified as AE-C functions from the Job Analysis, they are not standard subjects covered in most allied health or bachelor degree programs, so may require additional study.

National Asthma Educator Certification Examination Detailed Content Outline Summary

- I. The Asthma Condition
 - o Pathophysiology of asthma
 - o Factors contributing to Acute and Chronic Asthma
- II. Patient and Family Assessment
 - o History
 - o Physical Examination
 - o Objective Measures
 - o Educational Needs

The Examination Items

- Cognitive levels of test items:
 - o **Recall** - The ability to recall or recognize specific information
 - o **Application** - The ability to comprehend, relate or apply knowledge to new or changing situations
 - o **Analysis** - The ability to analyze information, determine solutions and/or evaluate the usefulness of a solution

Review Courses

Do not underestimate the need to properly prepare for the examination.

- Board members are prohibited from being involved in any kind of course related to the examination, either through promotion, development or execution of the course.
- Many review courses are available from other professional organizations
- NAECB does NOT review or endorse or promote any of these review courses.

Review Materials

- NAECB board members **have not** participated in any way in the development of any outside materials marketed for review of this exam.
- NAECB **does not** endorse any outside materials marketed for the review of this exam.
- Any claims about success in helping to pass the Asthma Educator Certification Examination by using these materials should be investigated thoroughly by the candidate.
- NAECB has a list of resource materials that may be used by candidate as part of an overall plan of preparation for the exam.
- None of these materials are meant to be review materials or review courses explicitly meant to be used to prepare solely for the NAECB asthma educator certification examination.

Exam Committee 2016

Examination

Charge: To be responsible for all phases of examination development, including the job analysis, examination content, delivery, security, and determination of the passing score.

Co-Chairs: Tim Hudd, BS, Pharm.D., R.Ph., AE-C;
Rory Johnson, Pharm. D., R.Ph., AE-C

Members:

Traci Arney, MN, NP-C, AE-C, FAANP
Clifton Dennis, RRT, AE-C
Linda Ford, MD, FACCAAI, FAATAI, AE-C
Antoinette Gardner, RN, BSN, M.Ed., AE-C
Lisa Magary, DNP, APRN, CPNP, FNP-BC, AE-C, RRT
John Manning, RN, MSN, PNP, AE-C
Karen Meyerson, MSN, RN, FNP-C, AE-C
Kelvin Panesar, MD, AE-C

The examination committee also includes a group of adjunct members, who are part committee members/board members.

Review Course Checklist

Things to ask about reviews/study aids:

- Is the candidate handbook provided by the NAECB used as part of the teaching materials or has it been used to develop the course?
- Are there Certified Asthma Educators (AE-C) on the faculty of the course or available for questions?
- Is the organization keeping a record of their pass rate and, if so, what is the pass rate?
- These are not the only criteria that a candidate should consider when choosing a course. They are simply three areas that the NAECB believes should be considered in any decision.

NAECB's Self-Assessment Exam (SAE)

- The SAE was developed to assist in identifying those areas of strength or weakness for each individual.
- The SAE is a practice exam, available to download from the website and is a shorter version of the exam.
- Contains 75 questions which are EPR-3 compliant and match the existing DCO.
- Cost is \$65 for 3-month online access

NAECB Exam

- 175 multiple choice questions
 - o 150 test items
 - o 25 pretest items
 - ✓ Not identified
 - ✓ Performance on these items does not affect score
 - o Includes some "multiple multiples"
 - o 3.5 hours allowed for exam
- Multiple forms
- Sample questions and Review References are in the Candidate Handbook on website: www.naecb.org

NAECB Exam: Application & Scheduling

- Online or paper
- www.naecb.org
- Complete & submit application & payment
- Must sign Code of Conduct
- Make examination appointment, pending confirmation of having met eligibility requirements
- Request for special accommodations available

NAECB Exam Fees

- **\$295 - New candidate**
 - **If successful**
 - ✓ Certification designation of AE-C*
 - ✓ Receipt of NAECB certificate
 - ✓ Certification is valid for 7 years
- **\$195 - Repeat candidate (fee per exam)**
 - Must wait 90 days between attempts and no more than 3 attempts allowed in 1 year
- **\$245 – Recertification (up to date of expiration)**
- **Increased fees for tests taken outside of U.S.**

Linda B. Ford Scholarship

- The scholarship was created to provide assistance for individuals pursuing their national asthma educator certification.
- The award is named after Linda B. Ford, MD, the first chair and a founding member of the NAECB, the first and only U.S. organization to provide a national certification examination for asthma educators.
- The application is available online NAECB.Org

How and Where to Take the Test

- Test is taken online at secured testing sites (H&R Block Centers/ PSI Centers) across the US through PSI.
- The assessment centers are listed at: www.goAMP.com

Re-certification

By Examination:

- Exam can be taken no sooner than 365 days before the certification expires.
- \$50.00 discounted fee when re-certifying prior to expiration date.
- Testing must be completed by expiration date.
- Letters sent out 12 months prior to expiration. Keep contact information up to date.
- Certification is valid for 7 years.

By Continuing Education Units (first available August 2013):

- Candidates for recertification by continuing education (CE) credits must have PASSED the last exam taken. Any candidate who has not passed the last attempted asthma educator certification exam is not eligible to recertify by the CE option.
- 35 CE credits must have been obtained within 5 years prior to certificant's expiration date.
- Applications must be completed and sent in prior to expiration date with a fee of \$245. Complete process is approximately 30 days from application submission.
- Certification is valid for 5 years.

If You Do Not Pass The Examination

- There is a waiting period of ninety (90) days between examination attempts with a maximum of three (3) attempts in a one (1) year period. In the case of extenuating circumstances, candidates may petition the NAECB.
- If the time has exceeded one year since the date of your application to NAECB, you will need to apply to the NAECB again for permission to take the NAECB examination with all the associated fees.

After You Pass the Exam

- Consider running for the board of directors
 - Some new board members are elected every year.
- Vote if certified; Current Certified Asthma Educators (AE-C's) elect new board members
- Consider volunteering to work on one of the committees of the board.
- Let others know you are certified and encourage others to take the exam.
- Let NAECB know how your AE-C has helped you. Get highlighted in the e-newsletter available at www.naecb.org.

Exam Statistics

- Overall, 8867 people have taken the NAECB exam through 3-31-2016 including first time examinees, those retaking, and those recertifying by exam.
- The pass rate for those taking the exam for the first time is 66.3%
- 436 certificants completed recertification by Continuing Education (CE) Credits and 331 certificants completed recertification by exam as of 3-31-2016

Form 12 Data 8/28/2013 to 8/27/2015

Candidate Group	N	Passing	Failing	% Passing
Total Candidates	615	333	282	54.15
First-Time	498	289	209	58.03
Repeat	108	35	73	32.41 *
Recertification	9	9	0	100

* Repeat takers showed a significantly lower pass rate on this form

NAECB – Asthma Educator Exam

Pass-Fail Rate for Examinees
(1st time, repeat and recertification) - Form 12

Discipline	Pass	Fail	Total
Physicians	11	3	14
Physician Assistants	13	0	13
Nurses	118	83	201
RT/C-PFT	140	155	295
Pharmacists	36	10	46
Social Workers	2	2	4
Health Educators	2	1	3
1000 Hours Experience	11	28	39
Total	333	282	615

NAECB – Asthma Educator Exam

Pass Rate Percentages
(First time takers only- Form 12)

Discipline	All Testers
Physicians	76.9%
Physician Assistants	100.00%
Nurses	60.6%
RT/C-PFT	51.4%
Pharmacists	83.7%
Health Educators	66.7%
1000 Hours Experience	31.3%

Education Level

Form 12 Data 8/28/2013 to 8/27/2015

Highest Education Level	Total #	Pass #	% Passing
Diploma	40	14	35%
Associate	169	71	42%
Baccalaureate	219	121	55%
Master's	110	76	69%
Doctoral or Medical	64	48	75%

Exam Statistics

- Consistency across content areas supports the reliability of current content
- Consistency has remained over the last 4 forms which have been retired since the newly updated job analysis and test matrix. This consistency was also seen with the previous 8 retired forms for this exam.

Please visit www.naecb.org



National Asthma Educator Certification Board

Promoting Excellence in Asthma Education

For more information, contact:

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