

## Kentucky Board of Licensed Diabetes Educators (KBLDE)

Frequently Asked Questions – January 27, 2015

<http://bde.ky.gov>

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### **I am a physician/nurse/etc. who provides diabetes education as a part of my job. Am I required to get a license in order to continue providing diabetes education?**

- If you are a licensed professional who provides diabetes education as part of your practice, such as a physician, nurse, pharmacist, dietitian, or nutritionist, you are not required to obtain a license from the KBLDE in order to continue to provide diabetes education. However, you cannot use the title “licensed diabetes educator” or a title substantially similar, like diabetes educator. (KRS 309.327)

### **If my professional license does not require me to become licensed as a diabetes educator why would I want to?**

- Though it is not a requirement of the law (KRS 309:327), it is still important that those health professionals (eg. RNs, RDs, Pharmacists) currently practicing as diabetes educators become licensed. Professional licensure has numerous purposes: consumer protection, professional recognition and setting quality guidelines for the profession. Currently, payers may reimburse for the diabetes education service (DSMT) but they are not reimbursing the diabetes educator. Licensure may help to strengthen the profession and may lead to reimbursement for the qualified diabetes educator. Without this "legal" definition tied with licensure, diabetes educators will continue to be self-defined.
- Additionally, those wanting to serve as supervisors for an Apprentice Diabetes Educator are required to have an active license as a Licensed Diabetes Educator.

### **Why do I need a license?**

- As a licensed diabetes educator, you will have a defined scope of practice. Legal scope of practice and licensure established through the state provides consumer protection and sets quality guidelines for the practice of diabetes education. In addition, licensure offers professional recognition and protection for the diabetes educator. As stated above, licensure may lead to more widespread reimbursement for diabetes education.

### **If I already have my CDE/BC-ADM, why do I need a license?**

- Both the CDE and BC-ADM are voluntary credentials. There is no legal scope of practice set forth by either of these credentials. A license defines the profession and legal scope of practice for the respective discipline.

### **I lead a diabetes support group or coordinate a diabetes coalition and I am not a health care professional. Do I need a diabetes educator license to continue my duties?**

- It is the opinion of the KBLDE that Community Coalitions or Support Groups are not considered diabetes self-management education and can continue to provide support and information. The scope of practice of Diabetes Education as defined in 201 KAR 45:160 is what a Diabetes Educator does. If the majority of what you are doing is included in this scope of practice, you may need to be licensed to do it. If what you are doing is not, then you may not need to be licensed.

### **What constitutes the practice of diabetes education?**

- Providing general information about diabetes is not practicing diabetes education. Diabetes education is providing and engaging in a comprehensive collaborative process to modify behavior and successfully self-manage diabetes. KRS 309.325(2). The scope of practice for diabetes education can be found in the regulation 201 KAR 45:160 (<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/201/045/160.htm>).

### **How does the board determine whether someone is practicing diabetes education?**

- The board will determine on a case by case basis based on the individual circumstances presented if someone is practicing diabetes education.

**Is teaching the patient how to give an insulin injection within the scope of practice of all licensed diabetes educators no matter what their other professional credential (RN, RD, LCSW)?**

- Education on how to administer insulin shots is within the scope of practice of a LDE. If what the LDE (MLDE or Apprentice DE) is doing is important for delivering the diabetes education services and is how they are best delivered and part of the necessary resources, then it fits the Scope of Practice for an LDE. (Refer to 201 KAR 45:160 Scope of Practice <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/201/045/160.htm>) The LDE does not prescribe insulin but might help interpret what the prescriber has prescribed so the patient/client will learn to self-adjust. The prescribing and dosing itself isn't in the scope of practice for an LDE. The board also advises to consider and follow agency policy and procedure.

**What is a Licensed Diabetes Educator (LDE)?**

- A LDE is a health professional who has a defined role as a diabetes educator. The LDE provides comprehensive diabetes education within the scope and practice of diabetes education as defined by the statutes and regulations set forth by KRS Chapter 309 and 201 KAR Chapter 45. This license is a minimum requirement to practice as a diabetes educator in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, although an LDE may also supervise certain individuals (<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/309-00/325.PDF>) who provide limited diabetes information. A Licensed Diabetes Educator may or may not be credentialed as a Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) or Board Certified-Advanced Diabetes Management (BC-ADM). Once licensed, you may call yourself a LDE. You will continue to gain knowledge and skills and may advance to the next level of a diabetes educator (CDE or BC-ADM).

**What is a Master Licensed Diabetes Educator (MLDE)?**

- The creation of the Master Licensed Diabetes Educator acknowledges individuals' completion of an intense credentialing program and that they passed the examination of the American Association of Diabetes Educators or the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators. These credentials are limited to specific healthcare providers and graduate degreed individuals. Although the Licensed Diabetes Educator will be able to perform all the duties the Master Licensed Diabetes Educator can perform, the title of Master Licensed Diabetes Educator acknowledges the additional preparation and expertise required for these credentials. Once licensed, you may call yourself a MLDE.

**Who should apply for an Apprentice Diabetes Educator permit and why is a permit important?**

- Having the Apprentice Diabetes Educator permit is required to pursue a diabetes educator license to legally practice diabetes education while obtaining the work experience required for licensure as a diabetes educator. Without the category of Apprentice Diabetes Educator, the person would be practicing diabetes education without a license, thus violating the statutes. Therefore, while obtaining work experience you will be required to file an application and pay a fee.

**Is there a fee for licensure or a permit?**

- The initial licensing and renewal fees for the all license/permit types are \$50.00 per year.

**I have been certified as an Associate Diabetes Educator or a Diabetes Educator under the Career Path Certificate Program of the American Association of Diabetes Educators. May I practice diabetes education in Kentucky?**

- While the KBDLE fully supports pursuing a Career Path Program of the American Association of Diabetes Educators, it is not a substitute for compliance with Kentucky law. KRS 309.327 requires that persons wishing to practice diabetes education in Kentucky must still be an apprentice diabetes educator, licensed diabetes educator, or master licensed diabetes educator in order to practice diabetes education in Kentucky, unless otherwise exempted.

**When do I need to renew my license?**

- All KBLDE licensees must renew their license by November 1 of each year, no matter when the license was issued.

**What is a certified copy of my credential (CDE or BC-ADM) in good standing?**

- A copy of your certificate or wallet card or a letter from the credentialing body stating that you have passed is acceptable.

**Why is an examination not required for licensure?**

- The KBLDE requested an opinion on this issue from our legal counsel with the Office of the Attorney General and the legal opinion follows:
  - “The statute as written does not give the Board authority to require an examination as a requirement for licensure. Pursuant to KRS 309.331, the Board has the general duty to carry out and enforce the statutes governing the practice of diabetes education. However, the General Assembly did not give the Board the authority to create or adopt an examination for licensure. In the absence of clear authority to act, it is interpreted that the authority was not intended to be given. In addition to lacking specific authority to create or adopt an examination, KRS 309.335 does not list an examination as a requirement for licensure.”
- It is of the opinion of the KBLDE that the regulations submitted related to the supervised practice experience and a board approved course will be sufficient to assure that the licensed diabetes educator will have the minimum competency required to practice. The supervised practice experience and the course will be further defined in the regulatory process.

**\*\* When you are completing the application, please be sure to sign the applicant affidavit on page 3, after part 3. \*\***