

## Kentucky Board of Licensed Diabetes Educators (KBLDE)

### Frequently Asked Questions

<http://bde.ky.gov>

Contact Info: Jennifer Hutcherson

502-564-3296 ext. 226 [Jennifer.Hutcherson@ky.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Hutcherson@ky.gov)

#### Why would I want to obtain a license?

- Though it is not a requirement of the law (KRS 309:327), it is still important that those health professionals (eg. RN, RD, 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 provider of the services, the diabetes educator. Medicare Part B pays for services provided by physicians and certain non-physician practitioners are not recognized as Medicare providers and thus are not able to bill independently for their DSME/T services. Although, in some cases payment for their services is made to the facility or as an incident to the professional services of a physician. Hopefully licensure will help to strengthen the profession and will lead to reimbursement for the qualified diabetes educator. Without this "legal" definition, diabetes educators will continue to be self-defined. It is a requirement that to serve as a supervisor for an Apprentice Diabetes Educator you must 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.

#### 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 309. 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). The health professional may have several years of experience as a diabetes educator. 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?

- The creation of the Master Licensed Diabetes Educator provides the acknowledgement of individuals who have completed the intense credentialing program and 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, this acknowledges the additional preparation and expertise required for these credentials.

#### **What is an Apprentice Diabetes Educator?**

- The Apprentice Diabetes Educator allows the individual pursuing 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.

#### **When will applications become available for me to apply to be a Licensed Diabetes Educator (LDE)?**

- Regulations are currently being drafted. The date applications for Licensed Diabetes Educator, Master Licensed Diabetes Educator, and Apprentice Diabetes Educator will be available is dependent upon the regulatory process. When approved, these will be available on the KBLDE website (<http://bde.ky.gov>).

#### **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, in this case, the licensed diabetes educator. It is hoped that licensure may lead to more wide-spread reimbursement for diabetes education.

#### **What will the licensing fee be?**

- The initial licensing and renewal fees for the three categories are \$50.00 per year. These were approved through the regulatory process.

#### **Will there be an exam to become a LDE?**

- The KBLDE requested an opinion on this issue from our legal counsel with the Office of the Attorney General and the legal opinion follows: "It is my legal opinion that 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. The General Assembly states the 3 requirements for licensure. The applicant must fill out an application, provide proof of completion of 1 of 3 programs and pay a fee. An examination is not listed as a requirement for licensure; therefore it is my opinion that the Board cannot impose it 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.

#### **Is a currently licensed healthcare professional exempt from the licensure requirement?**

- If it is within the professional's scope of practice, as long as they do not promote themselves as diabetes educators, the answer is yes. There is specific language in the legislation that states that nothing in these statutes shall be construed to alter, amend or interfere with the practice of those who provide health care services, including but not limited to physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dieticians, and nutritionists. There is also specific language related to who is allowed to use the title and to promote themselves as a person who practices diabetes education.

**If I am an independent practitioner, who can write my letter stating that I practice Diabetes Education?**

- If you are an independent practitioner you can write your own letter stating that you are self-employed and to what extent Diabetes Education is a part of your practice.

**If an educator obtains a basic license and then completes the CDE exam and passes while holding the Basic License, will there be a free upgrade to a Master License?**

- There are two ways to upgrade from a basic to a master license. One is to upgrade at renewal time. The only fee required at this time is the annual renewal fee. The other option is to reapply once you qualify for a master license. An application fee would be required.

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

- A copy of your certificate or wallet card is acceptable.

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