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NATIONAL  
ASTHMA EDUCATOR  
CERTIFICATION BOARD

AE-C

February 2019

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**Letter from the Chair**  
**Timothy Hudd, BS, Pharm.D., R.Ph., AE-C**



I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chair for the National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB), 2019-2021 term.

For almost 20 years, the NAECB has advanced excellence in asthma education through the certified asthma educator (AE-C<sup>®</sup>) process. I became certified in 2008 after nearly losing my mother to an asthma attack. It was a horrible ordeal and fortunately she is alive and doing well today thanks to the well-trained EMTs, nurses, physicians, and hospital staff who took care of her.

According to the CDC, an estimated 28 million Americans have a diagnosis of asthma and more than 3,500 patients die each year from an asthma exacerbation.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, these fatalities persist despite several published evidence-based guidelines, more efficient inhaled delivery devices, and various biologics approved for specific phenotypes in patients with severe asthma.

Those of you who have earned certified asthma educator credential (AE-C) know the NAECB certification examination is a rigorous exam. We recently completed a job analysis of current AE-C certificants and utilized these findings to update the detailed content outline (DCO) or "blueprint" for the examination. Our large group interdisciplinary experts continue to work with the psychometricians from PSI Services to systemically review and create new exam items to ensure the examination is reflective of how the credential is being used in practice. The Self-Assessment Examination (SAE) continues to mirror the format for the examination and updated DCO. However, a few minor updates to the SAE, as well as, the candidate handbook will be available later this spring.

The NAECB is not an authority in reimbursement, but will continue to advocate for policies and actions that promote recognition of the AE-C credential and acceptance of National Standards for Asthma Self-Management. In the coming year, we will continue to explore strategies to engage certificants and enhance the benefits of certification through various social media platforms, conferences, and opportunities posted on the NAECB website. AE-C certificants will be invited to submit their published research, so it may be recognized under the new "AE-C Published Research" section of our website. It is important to highlight this work and contributions by certified asthma educators to improve asthma care.

In the coming months, there will be a biannual audit in accordance with our policy of financial transparency. Additionally, we plan to submit the application to the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation now that the job analysis is complete.

I would like to acknowledge Cliff Dennis, RRT, and Past Chair for his leadership over the past two years. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge our invaluable administrative professional, Mrs. Nicole Nelson, Board members, and members emeriti for their hard work and dedication to advancing excellence in asthma education.

Congratulations to all who have earned and maintained the certified asthma educator credential. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Hudd, BS, Pharm.D., RPh, AE-C

Citation:

1. Asthma Facts-CDC's National Asthma Control Program Grantees; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013

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## Upcoming Events

### **Nationwide Children's Hospital 10th Annual Pediatric Asthma Conference**

**Date:** May 9-10, 2019

**Location:** Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio

**Registration Link:** [www.nationwidechildrens.org/asthma-conference](http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/asthma-conference)

[Brochure](#)

### **Conference Directors**

David Stukus, MD, Director, Complex Asthma Clinic

Gloria Ayres, RRT, AE-C, Asthma Coordinator

### **Keynote Speakers:**

#### **Wanda Phipatanakul, MD, MS**

Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Immunology, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School

#### **Alan P. Baptist, MD, MPH**

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Allergy and Immunology, University of Michigan School of Medicine

The conference is designed for pediatricians, asthma specialists, family practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists, social workers, pharmacists and clinical staff from hospitals, urgent care and primary care facilities with pediatric asthma patients, and school facilities with pediatric asthma students/patients.

## **2019 AAE Annual Conference June 7-9, 2019**

Join us! The 2019 Annual Conference program will encompass a full spectrum of asthma-related topics from strategies for motivational interviewing, trigger recognition and home visitation programs, to biologics and genetics, as we continue to knit the web of care and information that delivers better education for patients and families living with asthma. See more at <https://www.asthmaeducators.org/>

## **Camp Not-A-Wheeze June 2-7, 2019**

A unique recreational and educational program to help children with moderate to severe asthma learn effective asthma management skills.

Activities included are horseback riding, music, rappelling, arts and crafts and much more!

Camperships are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Online registration available for campers and volunteers. Please visit the following link to complete your registration <https://app.campdoc.com/!/home/auth/login?r=notawheeze> Call 602-336-6575 or email [info@campnotawheeze.org](mailto:info@campnotawheeze.org)

<https://campnotawheeze.org/>

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## **New FREE Continuing Education From MMWR and Medscape Asthma In Children**

CDC's *MMWR* and Medscape are proud to introduce a new [FREE continuing education \(CE\) activity](#) that describes trends and demographic differences in health outcomes and healthcare use for childhood asthma, based on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analysis of asthma data from the 2001-2016 National Health Interview Survey for children 17 years and younger.

This activity is intended for pediatricians, pulmonologists, public health officials, nurses, and other clinicians caring for patients with childhood asthma.

Upon completion of this activity, participants will

1. Distinguish demographic differences in prevalence, health outcomes, and healthcare use for childhood asthma, based on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analysis of asthma data from the 2001-2016 National Health Interview Survey for children 17 years and younger
2. Describe temporal trends in health outcomes and healthcare use for childhood asthma, based on the CDC analysis of asthma data
3. Determine the clinical implications of trends and demographic differences in health outcomes and healthcare use for childhood asthma

To access this FREE *MMWR* / Medscape CE activity, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/medscape\\_cme.html](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/medscape_cme.html). If you are not a registered user on Medscape, you may [register for free or login without a password](#) and get unlimited access to all continuing education activities and other Medscape features.

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## **Changes to the Recertification Grace Period**

**Effective January 01, 2019** the AE-C credential renewal grace period will be changed to one (1) year. There will be a \$50 late fee assessed to renewals that are submitted *after* the credential expiration. The renewal cost is \$300 before expiration and \$350 after expiration.

- **If your certification is about to expire**, you can recertify by continuing education units (CEUs), as an alternative to taking the examination, if you meet the recertification by CEU requirements.
- **If your certification has already expired**, you can still recertify by continuing education units (CEU) within a one (1) year grace period by meeting the recertification by CEU requirements and paying a late fee!
- **If your credential is 1 or more years past its expiration date**, you will be eligible to recertify by examination ONLY.

## Renewal of AE-C by 35 hours of CEU

Obtain AE-C credentials. 7 years until credentials expire.	- AE-C good for 7 years
6 years until credentials expire.	- 6 years
5 years until credentials expire... 4 years until credentials expire... 3 years until credentials expire... 2 years until credentials expire...	- 5 to 2 years
1 year prior to expiration - apply during this year for renewal of AE-C with CEUs obtained over the PAST 5 years (first 2 years will not count).  Must be clearly related to an asthma topic see the exam Detailed Content Outline for details on what is acceptable.	- Last year of credential period

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### Tell Us Your Story!

If you are a Certified Asthma Educator with an innovative approach to asthma education or a unique program, we want to hear about it!

**Send an e-mail to [info@naecb.org](mailto:info@naecb.org) and we may feature your story in an upcoming newsletter!**

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### Certified Asthma Educators in Action Why I Took the NAECB Exam

**Allan M. Wachter, MD, FAAAAI, FACAAI, FCCP, AE-C**

Who in their right mind would voluntarily take a proctored standardized exam not required by their specialty? I am a Board Certified Allergist/Immunologist who is current in the MOC (Maintenance of Certification) Program of my specialty. I can tell you that approximately one percent of time-unlimited certified asthma specialists have voluntarily retaken their specialty exam. Most physicians do not voluntarily take recertification exams for various reasons. I sat for and studied for the NAECB 2018 exam. The NAECB exam is designed to assess one's breadth of knowledge in outpatient "hands-on" asthma care. Controversy abounds on the predictive precision of standardized exams. Despite all the pro and con debates about standardized exams, no certifying national exam has been eliminated in the U.S. in over fifty years. Simply put, all statistically validated and standardized exams have been shown to be indicative of a certain level of competency. Hospitals, large multi-specialty clinics, doctors offices, HMO's, insurance companies, or any potential employer will surely want a proven highly competent asthma healthcare provider. The NAECB exam is a statistically validated measurement tool for asthma education quality assessment and meets the need of any employer who wants to assess a job candidate's objective skills in asthma education.

Studies have clearly shown going back over one hundred years that standardized testing overall improves student achievement.<sup>1</sup> Does "testing to the test" or studying for a certifying exam limit one field of study? Peer reviewed studies have shown that studying in a specific direction enhances the chance to cover key identified areas of knowledge and improves the chance to master the material.<sup>2,3</sup>

Is the NAECB test fair? I can wholeheartedly say it is a fair exam, but that it requires study and an excellent understanding of published U.S. and Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) Guidelines. These are large documents to read, but it is expected that all healthcare providers taking care of patients with asthma know these basic core facts. It is a core tenet by thought leaders in asthma care that the best way to improve asthma outcomes in the US is by following and implementing these guidelines in the care of our patients. In fact, every 2-5 years international meetings are held in attempt to harmonize U.S. and European Asthma and COPD Guidelines. From my personal perspective, I especially value anyone who is willing to prove they have a special interest in asthma care and is willing to take a standardized exam. An individual who becomes a certified asthma educator demonstrates their self-dedication to continuous asthma study and their willingness to share their knowledge with patients and other healthcare providers. Who wouldn't want to work with or hire a motivated bright employee who is an AE-C, I surely do. Finally, my own preparation for the NAECB exam equipped me with the key details of asthma care allowing me to better care for my patients, which is the primary aim of the NAECB exam.

(1) Richard P. Phelps, "The Effect of Testing on Achievement: Meta-Analyses and Research Summary, 1910-2010," *Nonpartisan Education Review*, Apr. 2011

(2) Patte Barth and Ruth Mitchell, "Standardized Tests and Their Impact on Schooling: Q&A," [www.centerforpubliceducation.org](http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org), Feb. 16, 2006

(3) US Department of Education, "Testing: Frequently Asked Questions," [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov), Nov. 17, 2004

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## **Fresh Off the Press - New Asthma Publications**

### **Reducing pediatric asthma hospital length of stay through evidence-based quality improvement and deployment of computerized provider order entry**

This study evaluated the impact of multi-component quality improvement for pediatric asthma care focusing on serial use of an evidence-based clinical pathway via paper order sets, pathway integration into computerized provider order entry (CPOE), use of a clinical respiratory score (CRS) and a discharge checklist. [Read more here.](#)

### **Association of Antibiotic Treatment With Outcomes in Patients Hospitalized for an Asthma**

#### **Exacerbation Treated With Systemic Corticosteroids**

Participants were exposed to early antibiotic treatment during the first 2 days of hospitalization for a minimum of 2 days. The researchers measured hospital length of stay, hospital costs, antibiotic-related diarrhea and treatment failure defined as initiation of mechanical ventilation, transfer to the ICU after 2 days, in-hospital mortality or readmission for asthma. [Read more here.](#)

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## **Asthma in the News**

### **FDA approves first generic Advair Diskus**

Mylan obtained approval to market its generic inhaler in three strengths: fluticasone propionate 100 mcg/

salmeterol 50 mcg, fluticasone propionate 250 mcg/ salmeterol 50 mcg and fluticasone propionate 500 mcg/ salmeterol 50 mcg. [Read more here.](#)

## **GSK announces availability of Authorized Generic Albuterol Sulfate Inhaler for treatment or prevention of bronchospasm**

The authorized generic contains the same medicine, with the same instructions for use as Ventolin HFA, however it will have a list price or Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC) less than \$36. This represents at least a 35% reduction to the current WAC price of branded Ventolin and potentially a lower cost alternative to the patient, depending on a patient's insurance coverage. [Read more here.](#)

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***Please send potential article submissions or upcoming related events via e-mail to [info@naecb.org](mailto:info@naecb.org).  
The editors reserve the right to decline submissions for any reason.***

### **NAECB Newsletter Editors:**

**Kimberly Byrne, DNP, CPNP-PC, AE-C  
Samantha Davis, MS, RRT-NPS, AE-C, CHSE**

## **Helpful Links**

-  [Exam Info And Registration](#)
-  [Review Classes](#)
-  [Candidate Handbook](#)
-  [Recertification Handbook](#)
-  [FAQ's](#)
-  [Code of Conduct](#)

**BEGIN YOUR ONLINE  
SEARCH FOR A  
CERTIFIED  
ASTHMA EDUCATOR**



**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
AVAILABLE



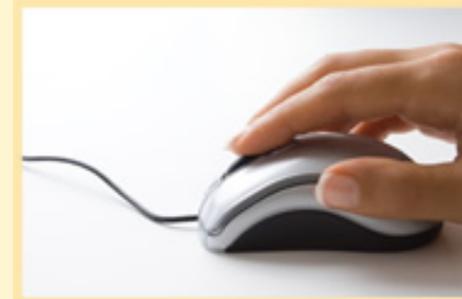
**APPLY  
TODAY**

[National Asthma Educator Certification Board Linda B. Ford, MD Scholarship Application](#)

[Association of Asthma Educators \(AAE\) E. Ellis Scholarship Application](#)

## NAECB Members

Visit the [NAECB Certificant Corner](#) to access newsletters, obtain forms for replacement pins and certificates, and to update your contact information.



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***Promoting Excellence in Asthma Education***



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