



NEWSLETTER

Me Certify? Why?

I am certain that many of you had the same reaction that I did when the asthma educator's certification designation became available. Why should I become a certified asthma educator (AE-C®)? Is not my skill at asthma education self evident? I have been an asthma educator for over 12 years and I proudly display my Diploma in Asthma Care from the National Asthma and Respiratory Training Center on my office wall. This diploma was not required by my healthcare institution to do my job, yet it proved to me the competence that I had gained as an educator.

Still the need for further certification was something that I struggled with over the years. To show my interest and concern, I even took the Association of Asthma Educator's Certification Review Course. Following the course, I felt energized and absolutely ready take the exam. I have to admit, it was another 14 months before I took the exam.

What was it that held me back? One thing was the issue of paying for the

exam. My employer paid for a certification review course but not the exam fee, which was significant cost to me at the time. I have to admit, a greater demotivator was pride. What if I paid the money, took the exam and FAILED!!! How could I honestly continue to call myself an asthma educator?

So, I made a pact with myself that I would not tell anyone when I was planning to take the exam—it would be my own little secret. Even though I studied with another educator, she did not even know when I would take the test! You can be assured that once I saw the "you have passed" notification, I could not stop telling others about this exam and how great an accomplishment for all asthma educators. Now that I have been certified since 2006, I can give asthma educators any number of reasons why everyone should be certified.

The number one reason for certification is **credibility**. The certification, and the letters AE-C® after your name, announce to the world that

you possess the required knowledge base to provide asthma education. Not only do you understand the basic facts about asthma, but you can assess a patient's/family's knowledge and then know the best way to provide that information or skills.

Another plus, certification lets third party payers know that you are **competent** to teach their clients and request payment for your services. You may be the best educator there is at providing this information, but without the certification they have no way of knowing. A national certification provides a sense of **confidence** to patients, professional credibility to employers and communities, and paves the way for payment talks for insurers.

The AE-C® certification can open doors for you professionally as well. I have had many opportunities to teach for both professional groups and lay audiences because of my educational reputation and known asthma certification. It is the answer I give on the application for continuing
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July 2009

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Current Numbers

- ◆ National pass rate for AE-C® Examination: 66.6%
- ◆ Number of AE-C® certificants nationally: 2,707
- ◆ Over 22 million Americans are living with asthma (CDC, 2005).
- ◆ Nearly 7 million U.S. children under 18 have been diagnosed with asthma (CDC, 2005).

Me Certify? Why?

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education credit that I am qualified to teach the asthma class to other healthcare professionals. It is the reason that I am asked to write curriculum for classes that are part of asthma grants and why people in my healthcare system ask me to review “all things asthma” before they consider them complete.

In today’s job market, certification may provide you with an advantage over someone else in landing that job or promotion. In these rocky economic times, it could be the competitive edge that saves your job, when a coworker loses theirs.

So now I won’t ask you “why certify?” but “why not”! **Do it today!**

Cynthia Conner, RN, BSN, AE-C

Levine Children’s Hospital

Charlotte, North Carolina

Certificant credentials, location and contact information are now available on our website:

www.naecb.org/cbr/find_cert.aspx

NAECB Call for Nominations

The National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB) is seeking nominations for candidates to fill six Board of Director positions for the 2010 - 2012 term.

To maintain the board's professional diversity, we are looking for healthcare professionals and other individuals interested and involved in asthma education. This year, we are in particular need of applicants in the following areas: Behavioral science/behavioral health; Nursing - (LPN or RN or NP); Respiratory Therapy - (CRT or RRT or CPFT); 1000 hour asthma educator.

Potential board members are strongly encouraged to have attained the certified asthma educator (AE-C®) designation. Examples of additional skills or experiences that would be beneficial for potential board members to have include, but are not limited to: *Public Relations & Marketing, moderating/facilitating strategic planning, credentialing/exam development/item writing, fundraising expertise, legal acumen and business development.* The NAECB does not discriminate based on religion, sex, gender, disability, or race. Past board experience and national recognition will also be helpful in serving on the NAECB.

- To be considered for a board position, you must complete the application form that can be accessed by clicking on the link, below. You may recommend yourself or another individual, but must be returned by **August 15, 2009**. Applications can also be found on our website at www.naecb.org
- <http://www.naecb.org/about/2009nominations.htm>

Linda B. Ford Scholarship Application

The National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB) announces the availability of the application for the Dr. Linda B. Ford Scholarship for asthma educators. This 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 National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB), the first and only U.S. organization to provide a national certification examination for asthma educators.

This is our way of honoring Dr. Ford for the hard work, dedication,

and passion she has shown in the support and creation of the first ever education certification examination.

The goal of the NAECB is 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. By making this scholarship available to individuals who might not be able to afford the examination fee, NAECB hopes to advance this goal. Applications can be downloaded at www.naecb.org.

DEADLINE: July 31, 2009, with scholarships awarded August 31, 2009.

NEW AE-C®

Lapel Pin is

Now Available!

Show off your certification with this attractive NAECB Certified Asthma Educator Lapel Pin for the low price of \$10 per pin.



Certified Asthma Educators Give Back to the Community!

Joe Yusin MD, AEC, an allergist from Phoenix, Arizona, has founded a nonprofit for children with asthma. This program has many different areas of support which encourages individuals with asthma to participate in athletics while learning about asthma and its management. *Asthma Athletics* partnered with Banner Children's Hospital at Banner Desert Medical Center,



now Cardon's Children's Medical Center, and Blake's Miracle Network, to provide a swim program for children ages 8 to 12. They also partnered with St. Joseph's Medical Center and YMCA to offer this program to inner city children. Since its inception 5 years ago, over 100 children have participated in the swim program.

The "Asthma Attackers" swim program provides asthma education by certified asthma educators (AEC) to both parents and their children while offering a free swim lesson from Swim Kids USA in Mesa, AZ. Each clinic is comprised of 8 to 12 children who have been hospitalized for asthma. The content consists of asthma pathology, triggers, medications, and signs and symptoms of worsening asthma. The courses are offered over four Saturdays, and there is also education provided to the children separately before the swim lesson.

Each session begins with peak flow

readings, developing individualized asthma action plans, and checking proper medication inhalation technique. Children are educated about identification of their own triggers, use of medications, and how to get help if an asthma flare occurs at school or at home.

Parent sessions are taught by Asthma

Athletics Staff while children participate in swim lessons. The staff consists of registered nurses, registered respiratory therapist, physicians, advanced practice nurses and behavioral health specialists. Quick-relief agents are encouraged to accompany the children during the sessions; however, small volume nebulizers with medications to assist with respiratory symptoms are available with physician/nurse practitioner supervision. At the end of the program, primary care providers receive a letter and a copy of the asthma action plan for the child's medical record.

Traci D. Arney MN, NP-C, AEC, FAANP
and Joe Yusin MD, AEC, FAAAAI



To learn more about this program, please visit www.asthmaathletics.com

NAECB Examination Reflects EPR-3 Guidelines Beginning August 3, 2009

Beginning August 3, 2009, questions on the asthma educator certification exam will reflect information from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's (NHLBI) Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR-3).

NEWSLETTER

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Next Issue's
Information Deadline:
December 1, 2009

Promoting Excellence in Asthma Education

We're on the web!
www.naecb.org

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the National Asthma Educator Certification Board is 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 (AEC®) process.



**NATIONAL
ASTHMA EDUCATOR
CERTIFICATION BOARD**

Get Re-Certified!

AEC® certification began in 2002. With a 7-year certification period, those who were certified in 2002 will need to **re-take the examination prior to their expiration date in 2009** to maintain their AEC® certification. The cost for re-certification (\$245) reflects a \$50 discount from the initial certification cost of \$295.

TEN (10) free CRCE credits are NOW AVAILABLE—through the AARC—for respiratory therapists passing the re-certification exam!

Take the Self-Assessment Exam (SAE)

The NAECB Self Assessment Exam (SAE) is a 75-item multiple-choice online assessment tool developed to be parallel in content and difficulty to the actual asthma educator certification examination. Items are based on the four major content areas and detailed content outline that details the knowledge, skills, and ability consistently used to provide asthma education.

Each item includes rationale statements for both correct and incorrect answers. References are provided for each correct answer.

The SAE should be regarded as an

assessment tool used to evaluate a candidate's strengths and weaknesses, rather than a study guide for the examination. A passing score on the SAE does not, in any way, guarantee a passing score on the NAECB examination.

Utilization of this SAE tool is not a requirement for eligibility or for success in passing the certification examination.

Both certified practitioners and others involved in asthma education can use the SAE to see if they are remaining current with the profession. It may also be used to improve knowledge and understanding of strategies used

in asthma education. The SAE provides experience in computer-based testing, as well as the NAECB type item.

The cost is \$65.00 and will be available online to you for a period of 90 days from the date the order is placed.

**For more information
about the SAE, please visit:**

www.naecb.org

**To order the SAE,
please visit:**

<http://store.lxr.com/dept.aspx?id=64>