

More Than 300 Physicians Earn Inaugural HMDC™ Credential



In June 2014, the Hospice Medical Director Certification Board (HMDCB) celebrated the first and very successful examination for qualified hospice physicians. More than 360 candidates took the exam in hope of validating

their knowledge of hospice care and earning the Hospice Medical Director Certified (HMDC™) credential. With a passing rate of 85%, HMDCB certified 306 hospice physicians in its first year.

The journey to launching the HMDCB certification has been significant and rewarding. HMDCB is committed to improving patients' quality of life by promoting the excellence and professional competence of the distinctive role of the hospice medical director, who is responsible for not only clinical care but also the many administrative tasks facing those who work in hospice.

Professional certification affirms a knowledge and experience base for those seeking to enhance their specialized skill set. Earning a certification creates value not only for the individual but also for the patients they care for and the organizations at which they provide care. "When I meet a colleague for the first time and I see that they are a certified hospice medical director, I am reassured that this is a physician with the knowledge and commitment to be a skilled member of a hospice interdisciplinary team and also a valuable contributor to the hospice community," stated recent HMDC certificant Michael Nisco, MD MBA HMDC, Health Essentials Hospice Services, Santa Ana, CA.

A survey was administered to the candidates following the examination by both HMDCB and the testing company Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP). The results provided consistently positive feedback on the examination experience and valuable comments for the examination next year. The exam was described as a fair representation of the knowledge HMDs should have today, and the AMP assessment centers were seen as professional, clean, and convenient. When candidates were asked why they chose to take the HMDCB exam, nearly 90% stated they wanted to be recognized for their unique knowledge and skills as a hospice medical director.

In addition, candidates who took the exam came from diverse geographical regions, job roles in hospice, and professional hospice experience ranging from novice to veteran. Nearly 60% of the candidates work in hospices with an average daily census of 100 or less, and more than 75% of candidates, including individuals such as HMDs, assistant hospice medical directors, hospitalists, and home care physicians, work in rural and suburban areas. As shown in the chart below, these candidates had a wide range of expertise levels, showing that dedication to the profession doesn't live only with the experienced veterans.

HMDCB congratulates all 306 physicians who earned their HMDC and are included in the inaugural class of certifiants. Visitors to the HMDCB website can search for these HMDCs either by name or location using the recently launched online directory. Members of the public who seek a highly qualified hospice physician can easily locate individuals who have met nationally recognized standards beyond basic medical licensure and their hospice affiliations. Visit www.HMDCB.org to view the directory and find a certified hospice physician near you.

The 2015 HMDCB examination will be administered May 7-22. The application cycle will open later this fall. To receive key information on the certification program, visit HMDCB's website at www.HMDCB.org and "Subscribe to Updates" from the homepage, contact HMDCB by phone at 847.375.6740, or e-mail info@hmdcb.org.

2014 HMDCB Candidates: Total Years Practicing as a Hospice Physician

