Hospice Medical Director Certification Board (HMDCB)

Continuing Certification Program
2027 FAQ Sheet

Q. Why and when did the Continuing Certification Program change?

A. Modifying the Continuing Certification Program (CCP) was identified by certificants as a priority of the organization in a 2020 survey. After careful consideration, the Board determined that to ensure the Continuing Certification Program best meets the needs of certificants and aligns with what other medical boards are implementing for recertification, it was imperative to explore modifying the CCP. HMDCB spent two years taking a deliberate and thoughtful approach to determine how best to modify the program. A task force of certificants partnered with HMDCB staff and a certification consultant to gather certificant feedback, complete an environmental scan of how other physician boards design their recertification programs, review best practices in adult learning theory, and draft several program changes that were thoroughly investigated for feasibility and value. Upon completion of this work, it was determined that a longitudinal assessment model would provide the most value for certificants. The goal of this new program is to provide opportunities for continued learning and accurately assess the competency, skill, and judgement of certified physicians on a continuous basis. The first longitudinal assessment was launched in January 2024.

Q. What are the Continuing Certification Program requirements?

A. The program requires certificants to participate in a longitudinal assessment on an annual basis to maintain their credential. The below requirements must be met annually:

1. Continuously hold a current, active, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States or its territories or any province of Canada.
2. Successfully complete 30 longitudinal assessment items and meet the identified competency level of 80%. *This is not a high-stakes examination. The assessment will be open book, untimed, and questions can be re-answered until the identified competency level is achieved.*
3. Complete the Code of Professional Conduct attestation.
4. Pay the annual renewal fee.

Q. How do I successfully complete the longitudinal assessment?

A. The longitudinal assessment is meant to be a continuous learning opportunity for certificants, not serve as a high-stakes exam. Although an identified competency level (pass score of 80%) will be required, each question will be untimed and open book, providing certificants the opportunity to research potential answers. Instant feedback will be provided after each question is answered – this will include confirmation of the correct answer, a rationale to support the correct answer, and a list of references. If the pass score is achieved on a certificant's first attempt, they will have successfully completed the longitudinal assessment and no further action is needed. If the pass score is not achieved, certificants will need to re-answer the questions they answered incorrectly until the pass score is met. *Note, questions can be re-answered an unlimited number of times.* The goal is for certificants to learn from the questions answered incorrectly by reviewing the rationale and references provided.

Q. When will the 2027 longitudinal assessment questions be available?

A. The 2027 longitudinal assessment will launch on **January 11, 2027.**

Q. When is the deadline to complete the longitudinal assessment?

A. The final day to meet the 2027 CCP requirements, including completing and passing the annual longitudinal assessment, is **November 1, 2027.**

Q. What happens if I do not achieve the pass score by the CCP deadline?

A. If a certificant does not achieve the pass score by the CCP deadline, they must cease use of the credential until they are reinstated or recertify through the initial certification process. Eligible certificants may be reinstated per the guidelines in HMDCB's *Partial Completion* policy.

Q. What is the annual renewal fee and what does it include?

A. The annual CCP fee is **$199**. This fee will include access to the annual longitudinal assessment, an online discussion board, access to live and recorded HMDCB webinars & Coffee Chats, as well as discounts on CME events offered by our partners.

Q. How are the longitudinal assessment questions delivered?

A. The longitudinal assessment are delivered online via HMDCB's learning management system, **The Certification Center**. This system is supported through **Oasis 360 Factor**. The questions will not be proctored, so certificants can answer all questions at one time or at various times throughout the annual cycle.

Q. What happens if I do not participate in the Continuing Certification Program?

A. It is the certified hospice physician's responsibility to renew their certification on an annual basis. If requirements are not met by the annual deadline, physicians must cease use of the credential until they are reinstated or recertify through the initial certification process. Eligible certificants may be reinstated per the guidelines in HMDCB's *Reinstatement* policy.

Q. Do I need to submit continuous learning points (CME & Professional Activities) to maintain my HMDC credential?

A. No, certificants are no longer required to submit continuous learning points (CME & Professional Activities) to maintain their HMDC credential. The completion of the annual longitudinal assessment will ensure certificants are staying up to date in hospice medicine, as well as gaining new knowledge.

Q. When am I required to start participating in the Continuing Certification Program?

A. Your current credential's expiration date will determine when you are required to begin participating in the annual longitudinal assessment. If you do not remember when your credential expires, visit the **initial application portal** or email staff at **info@hmdcb.org**.

Expire in 2027: If you have a current expiration date of **11.30.2027** or **12.31.2027**, you are required to participate in the longitudinal assessment starting in 2027 to maintain your credential.

Expire in 2028 or Later: If your current credential expires in 2028 or later, HMDCB will honor your ***current expiration date***. You will be required to participate in the longitudinal assessment the year your current credential expires (e.g., if your current credential **expires on 11.30.2028**, you are required to begin participating in the CCP starting in 2028). ***Note:*** *you can participate in the longitudinal assessment prior to your current expiration date if you would like. After meeting the 2027 CCP requirements, you will receive a new expiration date of 12.31.2028.*

Initially Certify in 2027: If you become initially certified in 2027, you will receive an expiration date of **12.31.2028** and you will be required to participate in the longitudinal assessment starting in 2028.

Q. Will a new certificate be provided annually?

A. Yes, after successful completion of the longitudinal assessment, certificants can access a digital certificate directly in the Certification Center. This certificate can be downloaded and/or printed for display.

Q. Will CME/MOC be provided for participating in the new program?

A. There are several requirements that must be met for a program to be eligible for CME/MOC credit. Since HMDCB is not an accredited CME provider, we cannot currently provide certificants with CME/MOC for participating in the longitudinal assessment. We will continue to explore this as an option for future years.

Q. Was HMDCB's Content Blueprint used to develop the longitudinal assessment questions?

A. Yes, HMDCB's 2020 **Content Blueprint** was used to develop the 2027 longitudinal assessment questions.

Q. How is the longitudinal assessment developed?

A. A group of HMDCB-certified physicians write all questions and include supporting literature. Each question is reviewed by another certified physician, then further reviewed by a committee of certified physicians and a psychometrician. All questions are developed by physicians who are involved in the day-to-day work of a hospice physician/medical director and understand the intricacies of this work.

Q. Where can I learn more about the new program and how to access the online assessment?

A. To learn more about the new program, we encourage you to visit our website at **www.HMDCB.org/ccp**. To review the CCP Candidate handbook and access a step-by-step guide about how to complete the longitudinal assessment and navigate the Certification Center, visit **www.HMDCB.org/ccpprep**. *We also encourage certificants to check their email regularly for updates about the program.*

Q. If I have additional questions, who do I contact?

A. If you have questions or need additional support, contact HMDCB staff at **info@hmdcb.org** or call 847-375-6740. Staff is available Monday-Friday from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm CT.