



# EXAM INFORMATION & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**CERTIFIED ASTHMA EDUCATOR (CAE)  
CERTIFIED RESPIRATORY EDUCATOR (CRE) AND  
CERTIFIED COPD EDUCATOR (CCE)  
CERTIFIED TOBACCO EDUCATOR (CTE)  
CERTIFICATION EXAMS**



**CERTIFIED ASTHMA EDUCATOR (CAE)  
CERTIFIED RESPIRATORY EDUCATOR (CRE)  
CERTIFIED COPD EDUCATOR (CCE) and  
CERTIFIED TOBACCO EDUCATOR (CTE)**  
are registered trademarks and may only be used  
under license from the registered owner, the  
Canadian Network for Respiratory Care.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**EXAMINATION DATE**

**Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**



For more information, contact **CNRC** at:  
16851 Mount Wolfe Road  
Caledon, ON  
L7E 3P6

Phone: **905 880-1092**  
Toll Free: **1 855 355-4672**  
Fax: **905 880-9733**  
Email: **cconnors@cnrchome.net**

**For further information on  
the CAE, CRE, CCE or CTE Programs,  
please visit the CNRC website at:  
[www.cnrchome.net](http://www.cnrchome.net)**

# EXAM INFORMATION

## 1 DATE OF EXAM

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

## 2 TIME

TBA

## 3 LENGTH OF EXAM

### **CAE, CRE, CCE & CTE Exam:**

3½ hours – (145-165 multiple-choice questions)

### **COPD-only exam** (for current CAEs):

2½ hours – (95–110 multiple-choice questions)

## 4 FEES

### **CAE, CRE or CCE Exam: \$450**

(\$100 application fee + \$350 exam fee)

### **COPD-Content CRE Exam:**

(For **Current CAEs only**) **\$300**

(\$100 application fee + \$200 exam fee)

### **CTE Exam:**

For **Current CAEs, CREs & CCEs**

**\$350** (\$100 application fee + \$250 exam fee)

For **New Candidates**

**\$450** (\$100 application fee + \$350 exam fee)

## 5 EXAM LOCATIONS

CNRC exams are computer-based and held at proctored exam centres.

### Test Centres

Test centres are located at convenient locations across Canada. These include:

#### **Alberta:**

Calgary  
Edmonton  
Fort McMurray  
*(surcharge \$75)*  
Grande Prairie  
Lloydminster  
Medicine Hat  
Red Deer

#### **British**

**Columbia:**  
Kelowna  
Vancouver  
Victoria

#### **Manitoba:**

Brandon  
Winnipeg

#### **New**

**Brunswick:**  
Moncton  
St. John

#### **Newfoundland:**

Corner Brook  
St. John's

#### **Nova Scotia:**

Halifax

**North West Territories/  
Yukon:**  
Whitehorse, YK  
Yellowknife, NT

#### **PEI:**

Charlottetown

#### **Quebec:**

Montreal

#### **Saskatchewan:**

Regina  
Saskatoon

#### **Ontario:**

Barrie  
Hamilton  
Kingston  
London  
Mississauga  
North Bay  
Ottawa  
Peterborough  
Scarborough  
Sudbury  
Thunder Bay  
Toronto –  
*Central*  
Toronto –  
*Durham Region*  
Waterloo  
Windsor

### Additional Test Centres

If there are sufficient candidates, additional writing centres may be established. Please indicate when you register your preferred choice of examination site.

### US and International Test Centres

US and International centres will be established upon registration.

## 6 EXAM REQUIREMENTS

### Requirements for taking the Certified Asthma Educator (CAE) Examination

- 1 Must hold a degree or diploma in a recognized healthcare profession, with a scope of practice that includes counselling
- 2 Must have successfully completed CNRC-approved asthma and health educator programs, and
- 3 Pay the required fee to sit for the examination.

### Requirements for taking the Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE) Examination

- 1 Must hold a degree or diploma in a recognized healthcare profession, with a scope of practice that includes counselling
- 2 Must have successfully completed a CNRC-approved health educator, asthma educator **and** a COPD educator program **or** a CNRC-approved respiratory educator program (combined health education, asthma and COPD).
- 3 Pay the required fee to sit for the examination.

### Requirements for taking the COPD-only Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE) Examination *(for Current CAEs only)*

- 1 Must be a current CAE, not due to recertify within a one-year period. *(If CAEs are due to recertify within a one year period, they may still write the shorter COPD-content exam if they choose Option A for recertification, or they can choose to recertify and become CREs by writing the full CRE exam.)*
- 2 Must have successfully completed a CNRC-approved COPD educator program.
- 3 Pay the required fee to sit for the examination.

### Requirements for taking the Certified COPD Educator (CCE) Examination *(for US candidates)*

- 1 Must hold a degree or diploma in a recognized healthcare profession, with a scope of practice that includes counselling
- 2 Must have successfully completed CNRC-approved health educator and COPD educator programs, and
- 3 Pay the required fee to sit for the examination.

## 6 EXAM REQUIREMENTS (continued)

### Requirements for challenging the Certified Tobacco Educator (CTE) Exam

#### If you already hold a current CNRC credential (i.e. CRE, CAE, CCE)

You must have completed one of the following comprehensive tobacco education courses for healthcare professionals:

- CAMH's TEACH core course
- Mayo Clinic Tobacco Reduction Specialist
- Alberta Health Services TRAC, PCCLES or Alberta Quits Learning Series
- Pear Healthcare Tobacco Education Program

**NB:** *If you are due to recertify in 2019, you must recertify prior to challenging the CTE exam.*

#### If you do not hold a current CNRC credential

- 1** You must have a degree or diploma in a recognized healthcare profession that includes counselling within its scope of practice.
- 2** You must have completed a CNRC-approved health education program or a comprehensive education program (e.g. Master of Education)
- 3** You must have completed one of the following comprehensive tobacco education courses for healthcare professionals:
  - CAMH's TEACH core course
  - Mayo Clinic Tobacco Reduction Specialist
  - Alberta Health Services TRAC, PCCLES or Alberta Quits Learning Series
  - Pear Healthcare Tobacco Education Program

**Additional comprehensive tobacco education training that meets the CNRC competencies may be considered. Contact CNRC directly to determine if your training qualifies.**

## **7 CNRC APPROVED EDUCATOR PROGRAMS**

*(Requirement for writing the CAE, CRE, CCE and CTE exam)*

### **Foundational Health Education Courses**

**Alberta Health Services  
Foundational Health Educator  
Workshop**  
780 361-1381  
[www.albertaquits.ca](http://www.albertaquits.ca)

**The TEACH Project  
Centre for Addiction and Mental  
Health (CAMH)  
Foundational Health Educator  
Workshop**  
416 535-8501 ext 31600  
[www.nicotinedependenceclinic.com](http://www.nicotinedependenceclinic.com)

**Manitoba Tobacco  
Reduction Alliance (MANTRA)  
Foundational Health Education  
Workshop**  
204 784-7030  
[www.mantrainc.ca](http://www.mantrainc.ca)

**Pear Healthcare Solutions Inc.  
Foundational Health Education  
Online Program**  
416 236-9555  
[www.healthlearning.ca](http://www.healthlearning.ca)

**RespTrec**  
Lung Association of Saskatchewan  
**Chronic Disease Management  
Educator Course**  
306 343-9511  
[www.resptrec.org](http://www.resptrec.org)

### **Respiratory Education Courses (Asthma & COPD)**

**Pear Healthcare Solutions  
Asthma, COPD and Patient Education  
Online Program**  
416 236-9555  
[www.healthlearning.ca](http://www.healthlearning.ca)

**RespTrec**  
Lung Association of Saskatchewan  
**Asthma, COPD & Respiratory Training  
and Educator Course**  
306 343-9511  
[www.resptrec.org](http://www.resptrec.org)

### **Tobacco Education Courses**

**Alberta Health Services  
Alberta Quits Learning Series**  
(Online programming required: Tobacco Basics, Tobacco Cessation Pharmacology, Intensive Tobacco Interventions) plus (In-person program required: Tobacco Intervention Workshop)  
Phone: 780 361-1381  
[www.albertaquits.ca](http://www.albertaquits.ca)

**Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance  
(MANTRA)  
Tobacco Education Workshop**  
Phone: 204 784-7030  
[www.mantrainc.ca](http://www.mantrainc.ca)

**Pear Healthcare Solutions Inc.  
Tobacco Education Program**  
Phone: 416 236-9555  
[www.healthlearning.ca](http://www.healthlearning.ca)

**The TEACH Project  
Centre for Addiction and  
Mental Health (CAMH)  
Core Course**  
Phone: 416 535-8501 ext. 31600  
[www.nicotinedependenceclinic.com](http://www.nicotinedependenceclinic.com)

### **French Language Course**

**Quebec Respiratory  
Health Education Network**  
**Formation de base en asthme et MPOC**

418 650-9500  
Toll Free in Quebec: 1 877 441-5072  
[www.rquesr.ca](http://www.rquesr.ca)

### **International Courses**

**Delphi HSA Inc.**  
**HSA-Respiratory Educator Program**

289 914-0217  
[www.delphihsa.com](http://www.delphihsa.com)

**Dr. Soliman Fakeeh Hospital**

+9662 665-5000 ext 2721  
[www.dsfh.med.sa](http://www.dsfh.med.sa)

## **8 EXAM REGISTRATION**

To register to take the Certified Asthma Educator (CAE), Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE), Certified COPD educator (CCE), COPD-only CRE or Certified Tobacco Educator (CTE) exam please register online at:

**[www.cnrchome.net](http://www.cnrchome.net)** .

# FAQs

## 1 How are the exams developed?

The CAE, CRE, CCE and CTE exams are developed to measure an explicitly defined content area, which consists of the core curriculum of technical and teaching competencies in asthma, respiratory education and/or tobacco. These core competencies/ learning objectives and the specifications that outline the way they should be measured on the exams are based on the 2010 CNRC National Learning Objectives for Asthma Educators (for the CAE exam), the 2010 CNRC National Learning Objectives for Respiratory Educators (for the CRE exam) and the 2012 National Learning Objectives for COPD Educators (for the CCE exam) and the 2018 Foundational Health Education and Tobacco Educator Competencies for the CTE exam. You can download a copy of these objectives from the CNRC website at [www.cnrchome.net](http://www.cnrchome.net).

These examinations pass through several steps to ensure they are realistic, reflect current tobacco, asthma and respiratory education, and are professionally sound. Certified Tobacco and Respiratory Educators working in different environments provide the content expertise. Testing consultants facilitate the test development process and provide measurement expertise.

## 2 What are the exams like?

This is a computer-based exam. Exams take place on computer stations at proctored exam centres throughout Canada. There are about 145 to 165 multiple-choice questions on the CAE, CRE, CCE and CTE certification examinations (95-110 items for the COPD-only CRE exam for current CAEs). Each question has an introductory statement followed by four possible answers. These questions may appear as cases (*i.e. an introductory text followed by three to six questions*), or as independent questions (*i.e., single questions unrelated to other questions*). CAEs, CREs and CTEs with knowledge of asthma, respiratory or tobacco education created the questions to reflect the core learning objectives and competencies.

## 3 Why is certification necessary?

Certification examinations have a well-defined purpose: to protect the public by ensuring that those who are certified possess sufficient knowledge and skills to perform important occupational activities safely and effectively<sup>1</sup>.

The purpose of the CNRC CAE, CRE, CCE and CTE exams is to assist in determining whether or not an applicant for certification possesses adequate knowledge and skills related to entry-level tobacco, asthma or respiratory education standards.

## 4 What is the pass mark?

The CNRC Examination Committee sets the pass mark that represents the expected performance of entry-level asthma, COPD, respiratory or tobacco educators. The passing score is established prior to the exam, based on the level of difficulty of the questions.

<sup>1</sup> American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education (1999). *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. Washington, DC, American Psychological Association



**5 What is included in the COPD-only version of the CRE exam for current CAEs?**

The shorter COPD-only exam contains exam items based on the learning objectives relative to: COPD definition, epidemiology, pathology, pathophysiology, diagnosis and evaluation, management and pharmacotherapy. It does not involve objectives relative to education, program evaluation and professionalism. These objectives are covered on the asthma exam and CAEs have already demonstrated competency in these areas.

**6 I am a current CAE who is due to recertify in 2019. I plan on taking the COPD-only version of the CRE exam this June. When will my new recertification date be?**

You will be due to recertify five years from the time you obtain the new CRE designation. In this example, you would now be due to recertify in 2024.

**7 I am a current CAE who is due to recertify in 2019. Can I still challenge the COPD-only version of the CRE exam this June?**

If CAEs are due to recertify in 2019, they may still write the shorter COPD-only version of the exam if they choose to recertify by **Option A** (*submitting a record of professional development and asthma education experience hours*). Otherwise, you will have to write the full CRE exam.

**8 I am a current CAE planning on taking the exam to earn my CRE credential. Do I use both credentials?**

No, the CRE credential will replace your CAE designation.

**9 I am a new educator trying to decide whether to pursue the Certified Asthma Educator designation or the Certified Respiratory Educator designation.**

We strongly encourage educators who will be working with adult clients to become Certified Respiratory Educators as you will likely be working with clients with asthma and with COPD. We are not discontinuing the Certified Asthma Educator credential as this designation will still be appropriate for those educators working exclusively in paediatrics.

**10 I am a current CAE who is thinking about becoming a CRE. How long will the COPD-only version of the CRE exam be available?**

At this time, we are planning on offering the shorter, COPD-version of the CRE exam in 2019. After that, we will make a decision whether to continue to offer a the shorter exam. As you can imagine, the certification process is quite expensive and this cost increases significantly every time we offer a separate version/blueprint of the exam.

### **11 Does CNRC sell a study guide?**

CNRC has produced a Foundational Health Education Workbook that is available for purchase for a cost of \$110 plus shipping. The workbook comprehensively details the health education content (health promotion and education, communications, educational interventions, resource management, professional practice, and program evaluation). The workbook has been designed to include all relevant information to help you prepare for the education content of the CRE, CAE, CCE and CTE exams. It includes activities, quizzes and reflections.

CNRC also has a Tobacco Education Workbook for a cost of \$120 plus shipping. The workbook covers the tobacco education content (tobacco epidemic; tobacco use disorder and other substance use; tobacco control; assessment; interventions; pharmacological, complementary and alternative treatments; client centred approach; and tobacco programs and systems). The workbook has been designed to include relevant information to help you prepare for the tobacco content of the CTE exam. It includes activities, quizzes and reflections.

### **12 What materials should I study to prepare for the exam?**

- CNRC Foundational Health Education Workbook
- Current Canadian asthma and/or COPD consensus guidelines
- References and reading materials provided to you during your asthma, COPD or respiratory educator program
- For CTE: See CNRC Tobacco Education Workbook.