



# EXAM INFORMATION & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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



Certified Asthma Educator (CAE), Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE)  
Certified Copd Educator (CCE) and Certified Tobacco Educator (CTE)  
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## APPLICATION DEADLINE

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**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## EXAMINATION DATE

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**Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**



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: [info@cnrchome.net](mailto:info@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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## 2 TIME

You will choose your exam time when you book your proctor.

## 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, CCE & CTE Exam: \$450**  
(\$100 application fee + \$350 exam fee)

**COPD-Content CRE Exam: \$300**  
*(For Current CAEs only)*  
(\$100 application fee + \$200 exam fee)

## 5 EXAM

**CNRC exams are offered using virtual proctors. Candidates must have laptops with cameras as well as secure internet connections**

## 6 EXAM REQUIREMENTS

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

- 1 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 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*), and
- 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, and
- 3 Pay the required fee to sit for the examination.

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

- 1 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.

**\* Recognized healthcare profession must have the following:**

- A governing, oversight or credentialing body or association
- A defined scope of practice

**Recognized healthcare professions include the following:**

Nurse Practitioner	Nurse	Pharmacist
Respiratory Therapist	Physiotherapist	Occupational Therapist
Kinesiologist	Medical Doctor	

### 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

**NB:** *If you are due to recertify in 2023, 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

**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

(For Alberta residents only)

Foundational Health Educator Workshop  
780 361-1381

Register here: <https://app.booking.ca/albertaquitspub/courses/index.asp>

Email: [tru@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:tru@albertahealthservices.ca)

#### RespTrec

Lung Saskatchewan

Chronic Disease Management Educator Course  
306 343-9511

[www.resptrec.org](http://www.resptrec.org)

#### Southern Alberta Institute of Technology/ Maple Respiratory Group Inc.

Professional Respiratory Educator  
Program – Foundational Health Education  
1 877 674-4778

[www.maplerespiratory.tovuti.io/](http://www.maplerespiratory.tovuti.io/)

#### 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)

### Respiratory Education Courses (Asthma & COPD)

#### RespTrec

Lung Saskatchewan

Asthma, COPD & Respiratory Training  
and Educator Course

306 343-9511

[www.resptrec.org](http://www.resptrec.org)

#### Southern Alberta Institute of Technology/ Maple Respiratory Group Inc.

Professional Respiratory Educator  
Program – Respiratory Education  
1 877 674-4778

[www.maplerespiratory.tovuti.io/](http://www.maplerespiratory.tovuti.io/)

## CNRC APPROVED EDUCATOR PROGRAMS *Continued*

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

### Tobacco Education Courses

#### Alberta Health Services

(For Alberta residents only)

#### Alberta Quits Learning Series

(4 COURSES REQUIRED)

Online

- 1 Tobacco Basics,
- 2 Tobacco Cessation Pharmacology
- 3 Intensive Tobacco Interventions

Register here: <https://phc.myabsorb.ca/#/public-dashboard>

Plus

(WORKSHOP REQUIRED)

- 4 Tobacco Intervention Workshop

Register here: <https://app.booking.ca/albertaquitspub/courses/index.asp>

Phone: 780 361-1381

Email: [tru@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:tru@albertahealthservices.ca)

#### The TEACH Project

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

#### Core Course

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.rqesr.ca](http://www.rqesr.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)

### Programs Eligible (but no longer operating)

- Alberta Asthma Centre Professional Certification
- Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance (MANTRA)
- The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences Asthma Educator Program
- Ontario Pharmacists Association CAE Prep Course
- Pear Healthcare Solutions

## 8 EXAM REGISTRATION

To take the CAE, CRE, CCE, COPD-only CRE or CTE exams, please register online at:

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

## 9 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 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 CNRC National Learning Objectives for Respiratory Educators (for the CRE exam) and the National Learning Objectives for COPD Educators (for the CCE exam) and the 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.

### 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.

<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



**6 I am a current CAE who is due to recertify in 2023. I plan on taking the COPD-only version of the CRE exam this November. 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 2028.

**7 I am a current CAE who is due to recertify in 2023. Can I still challenge the COPD-only version of the CRE exam this November?**

If CAEs are due to recertify in 2023, 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 2022. 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 guidelines
- References and reading materials provided to you during your asthma, COPD or respiratory educator program
- For CTE: CNRC Tobacco Education Workbook.