

**MAINTAIN YOUR LAMAZE
CREDENTIAL...
RECERTIFY TODAY!**

**Lamaze Childbirth
Educator Recertification
Booklet**

DYNAMIC

KNOWLEDGEABLE

EVIDENCE-BASED

RESPECTED

CONFIDENT



*The Lamaze Certification Program is the
only internationally recognized childbirth
educator program accredited by the
National Commission for Certifying Agencies.*

WHY RECERTIFY?



Recertification as a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator (LCCE) ensures your continued competency in childbirth education. LCCE educators provide women and their families with evidence-based education on nature's simple plan for birth. By maintaining the Lamaze credential, you demonstrate to maternal-child health professionals and expectant families that you meet a standard level of knowledge and skill—the Lamaze credential is the mark of a competent, highly qualified childbirth educator who promotes, supports and protects natural birth. Recertification confirms your commitment to providing top-notch education to women and their families.



The Lamaze Certification Program meets the highest standards for validity, reliability and fairness and is recognized as the only such program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accrediting body of the National Organization of Competency Assurance (NOCA). For more information regarding NOCA and NCCA, please visit the NOCA Web site at www.noca.org.

COMPETENCY STATEMENTS FOR LCCE EDUCATORS

These statements identify the competencies that are essential for practice as a childbirth educator and reflect the specialized knowledge of a childbirth educator certified by Lamaze International.

A Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator (LCCE) is able to:

1. Promote the childbearing experience as a normal, natural and healthy process that profoundly affects women and their families.
2. Assist women and their families to discover and use strategies that facilitate normal, natural and healthy pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and early parenting.
3. Help women and their families to understand how interventions and complications influence the normal course of pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and early postpartum.
4. Provide information and support that encourages attachment between babies and their families.
5. Assist women and their families to make informed decisions for childbearing.
6. Act as an advocate to promote normal, natural, healthy and fulfilling childbirth experiences for women and their families.
7. Design, teach and evaluate a course in Lamaze preparation that increases women's confidence and ability to give birth.

FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. *When must I take continuing education courses if I am due to recertify on December 31?*

A. All continuing education credit must be completed by December 31 of your recertification year. Only courses completed exactly three years prior to your certification date will be counted.

Q. *If I recertify early, will courses taken after I send in my paperwork count toward my next recertification date?*

A. **No.** If you submit your recertification materials early, your next recertification date is set three years from the previous date. All of your continuing education courses must be within the three years prior to your recertification date.

Q. *Do in-services (applicable to childbirth educators) given by my hospital or chapter count for continuing education?*

A. **Yes.** If the topics covered during the in-service are applicable to childbirth education, they count for continuing education. Please refer to the Philosophy of Birth and Competency Statements for applicability. Ask the education coordinator or speaker to provide written verification of: (1) your attendance; (2) topics discussed; (3) speaker's name; (4) length of presentation; and (5) program date.

Q. *I am not currently a member, but it's the end of the year and I am due for recertification. If I pay my membership now, will it be good for next year?*

A. **No.** The lower recertification rate is a benefit of membership; therefore, your membership must be current for the year in which you apply for recertification. If you are due to recertify in December, we recommend renewing your membership earlier in the year in order to maximize your benefits, such as discounts, publications and other educator resources.

Q. *Can I pay my membership dues and my recertification fees at the same time in order to receive the discounted member rate?*

A. **Yes.** If you choose to submit your membership dues along with your recertification fees, you will receive back issues of *Genesis* and *The Journal of Perinatal Education* (while supplies last). To receive the most membership benefits, it is wise to pay membership dues at the beginning of the year, rather than wait for your June or December recertification date.

Q. *I am not teaching this year. Does Lamaze International have an inactive status for LCCE educators?*

A. **No.** Lamaze International does not have an inactive status for LCCE educators. To maintain certification standards, all LCCE educators must meet the same recertification criteria to continue using the Lamaze credential. However, non-practicing LCCE educators may still maintain membership status with Lamaze International as a Retired Member.

Q. *If I earn contact hours that are not provided by Lamaze International, how do I know if they will be accepted for recertification?*

A. All continuing education submissions must meet two criteria to be accepted for recertification. 1) The topic of the continuing education program is appropriately applicable to childbirth or childbirth education and supports at least one of the Competency Statements for LCCE Educators. 2) The program is approved for contact hours by an approved provider of continuing education. A list of approved providers of continuing education, sample continuing education topics and the Competency Statements for LCCE Educators are available inside this brochure.

Q. *What will happen if I submit topics that are not accepted for recertification?*

A. Depending upon the number of contact hours submitted, the Lamaze Administrative Office will notify you if any questions regarding your application arise during the review process. In the event that a continuing education submission is not accepted, you will only be notified if your total number of accepted contact hours is less than 25.

OPTIONS FOR RECERTIFICATION

In order to maintain certification status, LCCE educators must recertify every three years. Lamaze offers flexible options, making recertification simple.

OPTION 1 RE-EXAMINATION

LCCE educators can recertify by taking and successfully passing the certification exam prior to their recertification date. The exam is administered twice per year and all recertification and exam fees apply. The recertification application must be submitted prior to the recertification date, along with a copy of the letter stating that the exam was successfully passed and indicating the date of the exam.

OPTION 2 CONTINUING EDUCATION

In order to recertify, LCCE educators must submit a total of 25 contact hours of continuing education every three years. An applicant must have completed contact hours within the three years prior to the recertification date. All continuing education contact hours must be applicable to childbirth education. Contact hours must be approved by a Lamaze approved provider of continuing education, and must support at least one of the Competency Statements for LCCE Educators as outlined in this brochure. Approved providers of continuing education are provided below. In addition, LCCE educators may choose to use alternate credit activities to fulfill up to 10 of the 25 required contact hours. Additional alternate credit may be requested and granted on a case-by-case basis. Details regarding alternate credit are available on the next page. Please contact the Administrative Office at 800-368-4404 with questions about whether a continuing education course is acceptable.

APPROVED PROVIDERS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

- ▶ Lamaze International
- ▶ Accredited colleges and universities (one credit hour equals 15 contact hours)
- ▶ American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
- ▶ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
- ▶ American Dietetic Association (ADA)
- ▶ American Medical Association (AMA)
- ▶ American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- ▶ American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) – Section on Women’s Health
- ▶ American Psychological Association (APA)
- ▶ American Public Health Association (APHA)
- ▶ Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), including AWHONN update services
- ▶ DONA International (DONA)
- ▶ International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE)
- ▶ International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA)
- ▶ National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- ▶ National Certification Corporation (NCC)
- ▶ Any state nurses association or board of nursing
- ▶ Programs approved by professional associations or health care agencies (this may include e-learning)

SAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION TOPICS

- ▶ Pregnancy, Labor and the Postpartum Period
- ▶ Increasing Women’s Confidence in Labor
- ▶ Promoting Healthy Birth for Optimal Outcomes
- ▶ Promoting, Supporting and Protecting Breastfeeding
- ▶ Teaching Adult Learners

SAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION TOPICS

- ▶ Neonatal Resuscitation
- ▶ Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring
- ▶ Menopause
- ▶ Breast Cancer
- ▶ Health issues NOT directly applicable to pregnancy, labor or the postpartum period

ALTERNATE CREDIT

Alternate credit activities may be used for up to 10 of the 25 contact hours necessary for recertification and may be earned from a single category of activities or a combination of multiple categories.

Alternate credit hours do not constitute official continuing education contact hours. An applicant must complete the Alternate Credit Form, section IV of the recertification application for these credits to be applied toward recertification. Additional hours may be requested and approved on a case-by-case basis. Alternate credit activities may include:

CONTINUOUS PRESENCE DURING LABOR AND BIRTH: An LCCE educator may earn alternate credit for having continuous presence during a labor and birth. One hour of credit is awarded for each hour of the birth.

CLASS OBSERVATION: An LCCE educator may earn alternate credit by observing another childbirth educator in a class setting. One hour of credit is awarded for each hour of observation.

EDUCATION OR CERTIFICATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE SERVICE: An LCCE educator may earn alternate credit for service on a committee of Lamaze International's Education Council or Certification Council. The Administrative Office, in consultation with the committee chair, will verify service hours.

PUBLICATION: An LCCE educator may earn up to 10 hours of alternate credit for the first-time publication of a book, chapter in a book or article directly related to childbirth education. Five hours of credit may be awarded for major editing or rewriting of a publication.

ITEM WRITING: An LCCE educator may earn alternate credit by writing and submitting exam questions. All item submissions must be approved by the Certification Council Chair in order to receive alternate credit. One hour of credit is awarded for each approved item.

LECTURE/PRESENTATION: An LCCE educator may earn alternate credit for lecturing at the undergraduate/graduate level or giving a presentation at a conference or within a university. Lectures and presentations must be childbirth education related and credit only may be received for first-time presentations. An outline of the lecture or presentation must be presented with the alternate credit form and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. One hour of credit is awarded for each hour of lecture or presentation.

Ethics Requirement

The Lamaze International Certification Council Governing Body has implemented a new mandatory continuing education requirement on ethics related to childbirth education, requiring at least one of the 25 mandatory contact hours to be on the topic. The new mandatory continuing education requirement is effective for LCCE educators due to recertify by December 31, 2009, and for each subsequent recertification period through June 30, 2012. Lamaze International will be offering opportunities to fulfill this requirement via Webinars and homestudies available for purchase, as well as specific ethics sessions offered at Lamaze International conferences. Relevant childbirth education ethics offerings from Lamaze Approved Providers of Continuing Education will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Lamaze International Certification Council will notify LCCE educators of their recertification deadline at various intervals during the year before their due date. A reminder letter is mailed nine months prior and six months prior, and an application and letter are mailed 90 days prior to the recertification date. To maintain certification, an LCCE educator must document fulfillment of the recertification requirements on the recertification application and send the application and appropriate fees to the Administrative Office postmarked no later than the recertification date. LCCE educator recertification dates are set on either June 30 or December 31 of each year. A new recertification date three years from the applicant's current recertification date is assigned upon approval of the application. A wallet-sized card listing the LCCE educator's name, credentials, certification number and next recertification date will be mailed approximately six weeks after receipt and review of the application. ***This card is***

proof of current certification and is NOT indicative of Lamaze International membership status.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following information is required on the recertification application. Incomplete applications will be returned with a letter requesting the necessary information or documentation. Failure to provide this information will delay the processing of your application.

- ✓ Name, address, phone number and e-mail address (if available)
- ✓ List of continuing education credit details, which includes:
 - (1) title of the program;
 - (2) date of the program;
 - (3) number of contact hours;
 - (4) educational provider or accrediting agency;
 - (5) provider approval number (if applicable); and
 - (6) applicable competency
- ✓ Completed alternate credit details (if applicable)
- ✓ Signed and dated application
- ✓ Proper payment

Please maintain a copy of all recertification materials for your records. Due to the high volume of applications, we ask that you fill

out the application as directed and include

only the necessary amount of contact hours needed to recertify. Failure to do so will delay the processing of your application.

FILING DEADLINES

Recertification applications may be submitted at any time prior to the recertification date. LCCE educators may file early; however, the certification period will not change. Upon approval, a new certification card will be issued confirming certification and indicating the next recertification date. Applications must be postmarked no later than the recertification date on the certification card. If LCCE educators choose to maintain certification by re-examination, successful passing of the certification exam prior to the recertification date is required. LCCE certification will expire if recertification requirements are not completed within 60 days of the recertification date. LCCE educators who are not able to meet the recertification date should contact the Administrative Office at 800-368-4404 prior to the recertification date.

Please allow six weeks for processing of recertification applications. If you have not received written notice regarding the status of your application within six weeks of submission, please contact the Administrative Office at 800-368-4404. December recertification applicants may experience a slight delay due to the large number of LCCE educators expected to recertify in December.

It is the responsibility of the individual LCCE educator to complete and submit recertification applications, documentation and appropriate fees by the recertification date.

RECERTIFICATION FEE SCHEDULE

Fees are payable to Lamaze International (U.S. funds only) and may be paid by check, MasterCard, VISA, American Express or money order. Payment is due at the time of application. A **\$29 returned check fee** will be assessed for all returned checks.

Recertification Fee	
Member	\$85
Non-Member	\$190

*Prices in effect until June 30, 2009. Beginning July 1, 2009, prices will increase to \$110 for Lamaze members and \$215 for non members.

You must be a current member of Lamaze International to receive the lower member

rate. Lamaze membership is based on the calendar year, January 1 – December 31. You also may renew your membership online at www.lamaze.org, or by calling the Administrative Office at 800-368-4404.

All fees are effective for recertification applications due June 30 or December 31. Applications postmarked following their respective deadlines will be assessed a \$25 late submission fee. Recertification fees are non-refundable.

AUDIT INFORMATION

The Lamaze International Certification Council randomly will audit 10 percent of the LCCE educators due to recertify for each recertification date. An LCCE educator selected for audit will be contacted following submission of his or her completed application and will be asked to forward copies of the certificates documenting the continuing education courses listed on the application, including events that were hosted by Lamaze International. LCCE educators are responsible for keeping copies of all certificates of attendance for continuing education events.*

**It is not necessary to submit copies of your continuing education certificates unless you have been audited.*

EXPIRED CERTIFICATION

Please contact the Administrative Office at 800-368-4404 to review options available for reinstatement of certification.

APPLICATION STORAGE

All LCCE educators should maintain a professional file with certification information and a copy of their recertification application. Unless an LCCE educator can provide evidence otherwise, the records maintained at the Administrative Office are the official certification records. Recertification applications for the current and previous year are stored at the Administrative Office. Applications are maintained in storage by the Administrative Office for four years following the recertification date.

FELLOW IN THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CHILDBIRTH EDUCATORS (FACCE)

Have you considered the most esteemed credential in childbirth education? The FACCE credential indicates to professional colleagues and the public that you have made significant contributions to the field of childbirth education including promotion of