

Recertification Process

Candidates taking and passing the Certified Bariatric Nurse Examination will be issued a time-limited credential that is valid for four years.

Recertification is an important component of validating and maintaining continuing competence. Competence includes both cognition and behaviors. Continuing competence can be defined as the ongoing ability to integrate and apply the knowledge, skills, judgment, and values to practice safely, effectively, and ethically in a designated role.

Recertification must be completed before the expiration date of the credential or the credential will expire, the registry number of the individual will be retired, and the individual will be removed from the list of Certified Bariatric Nurses. Individuals whose credentials expire will no longer have the right to use the designation CBN. If the requirements for recertification are completed successfully prior to the expiration date, the credential and existing registry number of the individual will be renewed for another four-year period. Those certificants whose certification expires will have one year to fulfill the requirements for recertification without retaking the examination. After that year, they will be required to retake the examination.

The CBN certificant is responsible for maintaining valid credentials; ASMBS has no obligation to notify certificants of the impending expiration of the certificant's status.

When should you recertify your CBN?

Recertification of the CBN can be a lengthy process so please allow enough time to enter the fulfillment options online as well as take into consideration review by the committee. **The recertification application review can take up to, but is not limited to, 12 weeks. However, you are able to begin submitting recertification activity documentation at any time in your recertification window. We encourage you to enter activities on the new online LearningBuilder recertification platform as you complete them.**

The table below is in reference to the candidate's final year of certification. As an example, if you tested in February 2016, your early recertification registration dates would begin March 1, 2019.

| | CBN's who tested in the July window | CBN's who tested in the February window |
|---|--|--|
| Early Recertification Registration (Begins 1 year prior to Certification Expiration) | September 1 through April 30 | March 1 through October 31 |
| Regular Recertification Registration (if you submit your fulfillment materials within 3 months of your due date, there is a | May 1 through August 31 | November 1 through February 28 |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <p>possibility that there will be an interruption in your certification status)</p> | | |
| <p>Late Registration for Recertification (For up to one year after certification expired - after one year of expiration, the certificant will need to apply as a new candidate and take the examination)</p> | <p>September 1 or after</p> | <p>March 1 or after</p> |

The Application, Review and Approval Process

The process of recertification may be accomplished in one of two ways:

1. Re-testing Recertification Option:

CBN Certificants can opt to take the CBN examination within four years of certification.

2. Continuing Education/Professional Development Recertification Option:

CBN Certificants must demonstrate that they have participated in continuing education relevant to the field of bariatric nursing, as well as various professional development options. (Please see the section on continuing education/professional development below.)

On October 1, 2018, the online certification management platform LearningBuilder was instituted and launched by the CBN to manage the recertification process. This will add increased flexibility to professional development/continuing education options, streamline processes, facilitate documentation submission, allow convenient and timely communication, and will also facilitate timely review of recertification application submission. All currently active CBN's were sent a communication informing them of the CBN LearningBuilder platform and how to access it. If you are an active CBN certificant and did not receive this information, please notify the CBN at cbn@asmbs.org. Additionally, going forward, all certification who pass the examination will receive information and instructions on utilizing the CBN LearningBuilder platform shortly after they receive their examination results.

All recertification applications will be completed online at cbn.learningbuilder.com and reviewed for approval by the CBN Recertification Subcommittee. Reviews with this new system will be processed when complete, however some applications may require committee review which is conducted at least quarterly. To avoid a lapse in certification, it is highly recommended that the recertification application be submitted as early as possible.

Upon review of the application for determination that the submitted recertification information meet the established criteria for recertification by option two (professional development/continuing education), the submission will be classified as approved, not approved, or application incomplete. An incomplete application often has missing data or information regarding the activities listed or requires clarification. Common errors for non-approval include: duplicate entry of an event, miscalculation of contact hours,

and inclusion of non-bariatric related activities. Re-Certificants whose applications are not approved will be sent an electronic communication identifying the problem and what is needed for them to correct and re-submit their application. To avoid these and other errors, it is important to review your online application thoroughly before submission.

Before applying for the CBN Recertification, the following eligibility criteria including compliance with the ASMBS Standards of Conduct must be satisfied:

You must be **currently licensed as Professional Nurse (RN or equivalent for international nurses) in one of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia or Puerto Rico.**

1. A valid license number and a copy of the license or a screenshot from an online license verification site must be submitted with the application. Acceptable international nurses' licensure will be determined on an individual basis by the ASMBS
2. You must also have a minimum of 1000 hours of professional practice (within the preceding 4 years) of nursing care of Morbidly Obese and Bariatric Surgery patients, predominately in the Bariatric surgery process (i.e.: pre-operative, peri-operative or post-operative/follow up care).
 - a. An RN who serves as a Metabolic & Bariatric Surgical Clinical Reviewer (MBSCR) at an accredited Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery Accredited Center through the Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery Accreditation & Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP) is eligible to recertify, assuming they meet all other requirements.

You must provide verification of your license with your application and professional practice upon request.

In addition, eligibility for the CBN Recertification also requires adherence to the ASMBS Standards of Conduct, which can be found on pages 8 & 9 of the ASMBS CBN Candidate Handbook.

Option One: Re-testing Recertification

Candidates for recertification of the CBN credential must pass the CBN Examination prior to the expiration date of their current certification. The content of the examination will be based on the most current role delineation (practice analysis) survey conducted by the CBN Certification Committee of the ASMBS.

Individuals may attempt the recertification examination a maximum of three times before their CBN certification expires. Certificants whose credential expires may be eligible to apply for the examination as a new candidate if they meet all requirements for eligibility at the time of application

Option Two: Continuing Education/Professional Development Recertification

The ASMBS strongly encourages CBN certificants to maintain and improve their knowledge and skills through continuing education in topics related to Morbid Obesity and Bariatric Surgery including co-morbidities. The purpose of the certification renewal program is to ensure that certified individuals demonstrate and validate they are maintaining continuing competence and a continuing commitment to expand their knowledge and enhance their professional competency within their certification specialty of Morbid Obesity and Bariatric Surgery including co-morbid conditions of obesity.

Individuals who wish to complete recertification of their CBN credential by this method will be required to submit education/professional development activities that add up to 80 points within the 48 months preceding the expiration of their certification.

Beginning in the 2019 calendar year, we have changed from a system that utilized the currency of continuing education contact hours to one that utilizes professional development points, with the goal of increasing the number and flexibility in professional development activities. All the prior established recertification activities are included in addition to a few new ones.

All Continuing education and professional development recertification approaches will require a total of 80 points.

All approaches will require at least 40 points (or one-half) to be attained by continuing education contact hours. However, now you will be able to mix and match other professional development activities that make up the second half of the 80 points.

(A) 80 points attained by 80 contact hours of continuing education,

(B) 40 points by contact hours of continuing education and 40 points by combinations of the following professional development activities:

- i. Additional contact hours of continuing education (1 contact hour = 1 point; 1 CEU/CME = 1 contact hour = 1 point)
- ii. Presentations (one hour of presentation time = 20 points)
- iii. Academic Credits – up to 40 points (1 quarter credit = 6.67 points and 1 semester credit = 10 points)

- iv. Primary Preceptor for student nurse refresher course, or internship program (60 hours of preceptorship = 40 points)
- v. Authorship/Publication – must be in journals/fields/publications related to certification specialty
 - Peer-reviewed Journal article = 40 points,
 - Non-Peer-reviewed journal articles = 10 points,
 - E-Learning/Media publication = 40 points,
 - Grant proposal = 40 points
 - Book Chapter = 40 points
 - Abstract submitted and accepted for poster or presentation = 20 points
- vi. Peer Review for Journal = 10 points per review
- vii. Professional Organization Service – 2 years of service on international, national or state committee/task force/board = 20 points

These activities must be completed prior to application for recertification.

Detailed description of acceptable Continuing Education and Professional Development Activities

A. 80 Contact Hours of Continuing Education (80 points)

Credits granted or awarded for continuing education by a certified or approved for contact hours by an accredited provider or approver of nursing continuing education are accepted. Content of continuing education programs should be relevant to one or more of the four domains of the CBN Examination Content Outline as well as relevant to the knowledge statements (See pages 31-37).

- Continuing education hours require the content must be applicable to nursing care of the morbidly obese or bariatric surgical patient (examples: workshops, study modules, grand rounds offered by your place of employment, local, state or national nursing or professional organization sponsored conferences). You will be asked to designate which Clinical Domain of the test blueprint the education is applicable to: Example - a perioperative bariatric course would be “Clinical management Perioperative (Hospital)”. If the content covers multiple domains, you may only select one domain; choose that which you feel is most applicable.
- Independent study and/or e-learning approved for continuing education hours may be used for the required continuing education hours (examples: independent study programs, on-line courses, articles from professional journals)
- CME (Continuing Medical Education) credits may be used for programs that have been formally approved for CME hours. The content must be applicable to morbid obesity or bariatric surgery and relevant to one or more of the four domains of the CBN Examination Content Outline as well as relevant to the knowledge statements (See pages 31-37) (examples: presentations on co-morbid medical conditions of obesity, bariatric surgical procedures, nutritional aspects of obesity/bariatric surgery, epidemiological or psychosocial aspects of morbid obesity).
- **Equivalency:**
 - **1 contact hour = 1 point**
 - **1 CEU/CME = 1 contact hour = 1 point**

- **New: Certificates for each claimed session must be uploaded into the Learning Builder application. Photos taken with a Smart phone or scanned PDF versions are both acceptable.**

Tips for Success: Include content details for activities that do not clearly state they relate to the obese/bariatric population in the title. For example, if you attend a Conference on Pain Management or an Advanced Practitioner or Staff Development Conference, you will need to list the specific sessions attended that relate to the care of the obese/bariatric population. Also, specific activities related to employment such as BLS, PALS, ACLS are NOT ACCEPTABLE as well as unrelated education for licensure; for example, nursing ethics unless relates specifically to obesity or metabolic and bariatric surgery/nursing.

B. 40 hours of Continuing Education (40 points) and any combination of the listed acceptable continuing education or professional development activities that add up to an additional 40 points.

i. Additional Contact Hours of Continuing Education as described above (1 contact hour = 1 point; 1 CEU/CME = 1 contact hour = 1 point)

ii. Presentations (20 points)

Different educational presentations in care of bariatric patients that fulfill these criteria:

- Primary presenter of a **first-time presentation**;
- Presentation(s) time adds up to at least 1 clock hour; more than two different presentations can be added together to make the time requirement.
- Presentation(s) is/are delivered in a structured teaching/learning framework to nurses, other health care providers, or the public at conferences, grand rounds, in-services, seminars, CD-ROM, internet-based or other e-learning formats, teleconferences, patient/family teaching, or public education.
- Do not submit repeat presentations of the same material or slight modifications of the same material.
- **New:** You are required to upload a brochure, flyer or notice of your presentation OR a copy of your presentation; objectives and outline OR PowerPoint in PDF form.

Patient education presentations that are given to patients as a portion of the duties of your nursing position will not be accepted (e.g. information sessions regularly given for your program).

iii. Academic Credits:

- Complete four semester credits (1 credit = 10 points) or six quarter credits (3 credits = 20 points) of academic courses that are required for a nursing major or that address the biopsychosocial knowledge base of professional human service (Example: nursing, nutrition, epidemiology, psychology, physiology, pharmacology). These credits must be provided by an accredited college or university.
- Academic credit received for a thesis or dissertation related to your bariatric certification is acceptable.
- **NEW:** You must upload an unofficial transcript from your academic institution

iv. Preceptor Hours (40 points)

- Complete a minimum of 60 hours as a primary preceptor in which you provided direct clinical supervision and/or teaching related to the care of the metabolic and bariatric surgery patients to a nursing student(s) enrolled in an academic program. OR
- Complete a minimum of 60 hours of clinical supervision related to the care of the metabolic and bariatric surgery patient to registered nurse(s) in a formal registered nurse refresher or internship (new graduate) program.
- For either option above, the following applies:
 - Does not apply to advanced practice students (NP or PA).
 - Orientation preceptor hours are not accepted (new RN hires).
 - Oversight of nursing students in a group with clinical faculty onsite do not apply.Faculty may not utilize this option for clinical supervision of students in their educational program.

v. Authorship/Publication (10 - 40 points)

- Peer Reviewed Journal: One (1) article published in a peer-reviewed journal related to your certification specialty. You must be the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor, or reviewer. You must submit the published article citation and in the case of the peer-reviewed journal article indicate the journal, the date of the review request, your submission date(s), and the disposition of article reviewed (40 points).
- Non-Peer Reviewed Journal: One (1) article related to your certification specialty published in a non-peer reviewed journal. You must be the author or co-author (10 points).
- E Learning/Media: Primary author or co-author of content related to your certification specialty utilized in E-learning and/or other media presentation (40 points).
- Book Chapter: Primary author or co-author of a book chapter or book related to your certification specialty (40 points).
- Grant Writing: Primary grant writer for either a federal, state, or national organization project, and grant writing is not a primary component of your employment responsibilities. The purpose of the grant must be related to your certification specialty (40 points).
- Abstract submitted to a local, state or national, obesity, bariatric surgery or nursing, or related obesity co-morbid medical condition professional conference and accepted as a poster or presentation (Can only count once if accepted as presentation. Counts as abstract or presentation). (20 points).
- Upload required:
 - You must upload a copy of your journal publication or the acceptance notification, if the article has not yet been published, to Learning Builder.
 - For E-Learning Media, you must provide a link or source to your online material. If you cannot provide one, you must explain why.
 - Book chapter: Copy of the book chapter or the front cover of the book which includes your editing role. If the book has not been published as of yet, provide communication regarding acceptance of your chapter or an indication of your role as editor or co-editor.

- For grant writing you must provide a document that indicates the disposition of your submission (e.g. score, acceptance or rejection, some indication regarding the review results).
- Abstract: A copy of the abstract and the acceptance notification as a poster or presentation.

vi. Peer review of a journal article: an article you reviewed for a peer reviewed journal related to your certification specialty (10 points).

- Upload required:
- Peer review: upload information that indicates that you submitted the review to the journal, the date of your review and the disposition of the article.

vii. Professional Organization Service (40 points)

- Two or more years of volunteer service during your certification period with an international, national, or state healthcare-related organization.
- Accepted volunteer activities include serving on boards of directors, committees, editorial boards, review boards and task forces.
- You will receive 20 points for each year of participation
- Please provide a letter from the chairman of the board, committee or task force verifying participation.

Recertification certificates will be mailed in 4-12 weeks after your submission is complete depending on any clarification that is required by the reviewers. If you need verification of your recertification before this time you may request a verification letter via email by contacting cbn@asmbs.org.

Audit

If your certification record is selected for audit, you may be required to submit additional documentation. Please maintain supporting documentation for the entire four-year certification cycle. Candidates found to have provided fraudulent information are subject to disciplinary action including loss of eligibility for recertification and revocation of their CBN credential.

Recertification Fees

The table below outlines the fees for recertification of CBN based on early, regular and late registration dates.

After completion of your documentation and CE requirements, you will be asked to verify your contact and demographics information, as well as complete an Attestation. Once this is complete, you will be asked to pay the recertification fee via credit card only (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover).

| | Early Recertification Application Fee (up to 120 days before expiration) | Regular Recertification Application Fee (Less than 120 days prior to expiration) | Late Recertification Fee (up to 365 days after CBN expiration) |
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| ASMBS/IFSO Members | \$250 | \$350 | \$500 |
| Non-members | \$350 | \$450 | \$500 |

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you know the examination really represents actual bariatric nursing practice?

In 2006, ASMBS completed a nationwide practice analysis, or role delineation survey, to ascertain the role of Bariatric Nurses in terms of the tasks required for competent job performance. The practice analysis undergoes periodic review and update, and this was most recently completed in 2016.

In each Practice Analysis, the participants in the role delineation represent practitioners involved in all phases of bariatric nursing across the United States. The results of the studies provide current information to delineate the appropriate content, scope and complexity for the CBN.

For detailed information on the initial practice analysis process, see: Berger, NK, Carr, JJ, Erickson, J, Gourash, WF, Muenzen, P, Smolenak, L, Tea, CG, & Thomas, K (*Practice Analysis Writing Group*). Path to bariatric nurse certification: the practice analysis. *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, 2010, 6: 399-407. The 2016 CBN Practice Analysis manuscript is currently in progress.

Using systematic test development procedures, the CBN Examination Development Committee has developed the CBN examination to meet the specifications for testing as derived from the CBN practice analysis study. Members of the item writing and examination construction committees are practicing bariatric nurses representing both diversity of practice types, areas, surgical procedures and geographic distribution.

How do I know if I am eligible to take the CBN Certification Exam?

You need to be a currently licensed professional nurse (RN or equivalent for international nurses) with a valid license number or equivalent and have been a professional nurse for a minimum of 2 years. You must have worked with morbidly obese and bariatric surgery patients for a minimum of 24 months in the preceding four years, predominately in the Bariatric surgery process. (i.e.: pre-operative, peri-operative or post-operative/follow-up care).

RN Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Clinical Reviewers (MBSCRs) who meet the 2-year experience requirement are eligible to take the CBN examination if all other criteria are met.

Caring for patients hospitalized for non-related conditions or surgeries does not qualify. International nurses are eligible to sit for the CBN examination. Acceptable international nurse licensure will be determined on an individual basis by the ASMBS.

I've heard that the examination is geared toward nurses that work in certain areas of bariatric care. I work in (insert one—the OR, a bariatric floor, a bariatric office). Will the examination be too hard for me?

The examination was developed based on a nationwide practice analysis of all aspects of bariatric surgical nursing care (pre-operative or per-hospital, perioperative or hospital and follow-up or post-hospital). The practice analysis was validated by over 500 nurses who were surveyed which determined that all parts of the practice analysis (or content) outline are valid content for nurses who practice as bariatric nurse coordinators, bariatric nurse program directors and hospital staff nurses on bariatric surgical units. If you work in one specific area, you may need to focus your preparation on the areas in which you have less knowledge. Examples: a bariatric office nurse may want to review peri-operative and in-hospital care; hospital staff nurses may want to review preoperative screening and preparation as well as ongoing and long term follow up principles. Additionally, in your practice you may not be exposed to all of the major bariatric surgical procedures and you will need to review these procedures and required nursing care.

How do I prepare for the Certified Bariatric Nurse exam?

You may prepare in any of the following ways. First review the “Content Outline” found in the Candidate Handbook (pages 31-37). Determine what areas of knowledge you will need to increase or attain. Then, choose one or more of the following methods:

- **Self-Study**

The Certified Bariatric Nurse Candidate Handbook provides you with a reference list of journals and books (pages 40-42). It is not intended that you should purchase any or all of these journals but use them as a reference list to study areas that you believe are needed in order to strengthen your knowledge or that are unfamiliar.

- **Group Study**

Some candidates have formed study groups and utilized different members of their bariatric surgical teams to present lectures with discussions based on the “Content Outline” which is a reflection of the “Practice Analysis”.

- **ASMBS Review Course**

ASMBS currently offers a Certified Bariatric Nurse Examination Review course. This is a one-and-a-half-day review course, and the domain content areas will be presented by faculty that has received their certification as Certified Bariatric Nurses (CBN) from the ASMBS. The faculty and course directors are prohibited from discussion of and/or participation in any aspect of the CBN examination development. The course curriculum presents a general review of surgical bariatric and morbid obesity topics and is organized around the domains, task and knowledge statements of the practice analysis. The courses will be offered at various times during the year. In addition, the ASMBS offers a continually updated Certified Bariatric Nurse Examination Review course online that may be taken anytime throughout the year. See the ASMBS website, www.asmb.org for further details.

- **ASMBS Study Guide**

A study guide developed by the ASMBS Review Course directors is available online at www.asmb.org.

All candidates are advised to review the full range of bariatric procedures, especially those that are not performed in their practice area.

Is there any collaboration between the test item writers (those people who develop the test questions) and the Certified Bariatric Nurse Examination Review course committee members?

No. In order to maintain test integrity, item writers and those who prepared the examination are prohibited from discussion of and/or participation in any aspect of the Certified Bariatric Nurse Examination Review course or product development.

Is the CBN certification program accredited?

We are currently members of the American Board of Nurse Specialties (ABNS) and are planning to submit our application to their accreditation arm of the American Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) in the next 1-2 years. Additionally, we plan to pursue accreditation with the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). For a certification examination to be accredited by the above organizations, it must be developed and administered according to established testing guidelines and meet the statistical analysis standards set forth. Currently, we are working with our consultant PSI to achieve accreditation as quickly as possible.

Can the CBN® be used as a professional nursing certification in submissions to the Magnet Recognition Program®?

Yes, the CBN is eligible to be used as a nursing certification in completion of submissions for Magnet Recognition Program® when completing the Demographic Information Form (DIF).