

Executive Notes



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Executive Director

New options for CE requirements

You asked and we answered. Several CDMs recently requested that NISPC broaden the avenues of obtaining the continuing education (CE) required for CDM recertification to include continuing medical education (CME). After careful review and consideration, NISPC recently made a policy change that will provide you with more options for obtaining your required CE. Although the number of CE hours required for CDM recertification will remain the same—30 hours in a three-year period—the method in which you can obtain your disease-related CE has expanded. NISPC currently will accept up to 15 hours of disease-related CME for credit towards your recertification. The remaining CE credits required for recertification must be earned through ACPE-accredited programs. We hope that this policy change will provide you with greater opportunities to remain current in your specialty area. As always, your continuous knowledge and professional development will ultimately enhance the lives of the patients you serve. Keep up the great work!

We've tried to answer some commonly asked questions about recertification in the Q & A Corner column in this issue, however, feel free to contact me at dsm@nispnet.org with any other questions, comments or suggestions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you

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Q & A Corner

In each issue we'll answer some common questions you may have about your CDM credential, recertification, new exams, CE, etc. The focus of this issue is on the CE requirements for recertification. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail them to: info@nispnet.org.

Q: Do all 30 continuing education hours still have to be disease-specific?

A: Yes, the 30 hours of CE must be related to the disease in which you are recertifying. For example, if you are certified in diabetes, you would be able to count a foot care CE towards your diabetes recertification.

Q: Am I required to obtain a minimum number of CME in order to recertify?

A: No. You can continue to fulfill your CE requirements exclusively with ACPE-accredited hours. However, you have the option of obtaining **up to** 15 hours of CME credits if you desire.

Q: I'm certified in both diabetes and dyslipidemia. Can I use some of my dyslipidemia CE credits towards my diabetes recertification?

A: Yes, because dyslipidemia is a comorbidity factor in diabetes, the knowledge you gain from those CEs will help you to better serve your patients with diabetes.

Q: Can you review the different recertification cycles?

A: If you passed the exam in 2001, you will recertify in October 2004. You will have to obtain 30 hours of disease-related CE between November 2001 and October 2004. Remember 10 of those hours must be obtained in the last year, between October 2003 and October 2004. For recertification information specific to other years, see the chart below.

PASSED EXAM	RECERTIFICATION	CE REQUIREMENTS
2001	2004	11/01-10/04
2002	2005	11/02-10/05
2003	2006	11/03-10/06



CDMs in the News

Susan Cornell, RPh, CDE, CDM in diabetes, was elected chair of the American Association of Diabetes Educators Pharmacy Specialty Group, 2003-2005. In addition, the Illinois Pharmacists Association also named Susan Pharmacist of the Year for 2003.

Congratulations Susan!

Michael Chantz Eyring, PharmD, CDM, was the subject of a feature article in the October issue of *Pharmacy Today*. The article was titled "Pharmacist with diabetes cares for patients with diabetes...and gets compensated for his efforts." Previously, Michael was featured as the CDM Profile in the April-June 2002 issue of *The CDM Pharmacist*.

Congratulations to **Dale Godby, RPh, CDM**, winner of the drawing of CDMs who mailed in their recertification packets by September 30, 2003. Dale won a copy of Lexi-Drugs for the PDA.

Mississippi Pharmacists Association President, **Leigh Ann Ramsey, PharmD, CDM** has been named to Governor-Elect Haley Barbour's Transition Committee to consult on policy matters related to healthcare, education, crime, families, and economic development. Leigh is certified in all four disease states.

Congratulations to these CDMs and to all the CDM pharmacists who are quietly improving the health of patients every day.

Have news you'd like to share with us? We'd like to highlight your achievement. Send information to: dsm@nispnet.org.

Medicare Update!

Patients with multiple chronic diseases now have access to pharmacists' medication therapy management services

In December, President Bush signed into law the historic Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (P.L. 107-183). This legislation marks the first major passed revision of Medicare since its inception in 1965.

Under the new plan, pharmacists will be eligible for compensation for Medication Therapy Management Services (MTMS) designed for targeted beneficiaries, to make sure that covered Part D drugs are used appropriately.

Beneficiaries eligible for MTMS are those with multiple chronic diseases (such as hypertension, asthma, and diabetes) who take multiple Part D drugs, and incur high annual costs for covered medications.

The plan will go into effect in 2006.

This is a terrific opportunity for all CDMs to demonstrate the value of the pharmacist in enhancing prescription drug therapy to Medicare recipients and all the patients you serve.

Stay tuned for more information regarding the details of implementation of this new Medicare legislation.

CDM Recognition

We are pleased to recognize the following pharmacists who achieved their CDM credential between September and December 2003.

Congratulations on your accomplishment!

ANTICOAGULATION

Bronwen A. Stebbins
Karie K. Yamamoto

DYSLIPIDEMIA

Mark E. Burroughs
Stefan K. Luker

Jane B. McConnells

DIABETES

Anita K. Austin
Patti Y. Chung
Kevin R. Duvall
Uwem A. Ijiyera

Amy B. Jaeger

Edwin L. Kestler
Robin M. Kitchens
Dudley J. Lambert
Stefan K. Luker
Renne R. McCafferty
John D. Mosley

Adam M. Myers

John Polanyi
Lynn T. Sanburn
Johanna S. Werner
Amanda J. Wilburn
Justin Wilson

CDM Profile: Judith Sommers Hanson, PharmD, CDM

Helping patients. Achieving professional goals. Increased knowledge. There are many reasons why pharmacists become CDMs in the first place, but more important is what a pharmacist does with the CDM once they have it.

Putting the CDM to Work

Judy Sommers Hanson gave three reasons why she wanted to become a NISPC credentialed pharmacist. "I sought out the credential to 1) push me to stay as knowledgeable as possible in the area of diabetes and lipids care, 2) strengthen my professional portfolio, and 3) to develop myself as a leader in the disease management of patients with diabetes and dyslipidemia."

In her dual roles as Pharmaceutical Care Administrator and Clinical Pharmacist at Dominick's Pharmacy in Illinois, every day is an opportunity for Hanson to use her knowledge to the fullest.

"As a clinical pharmacist, I see patients by appointment to conduct screenings, or provide education about their medications and health conditions. As the Pharmaceutical Care Administrator for Dominick's, I work with the Director of Pharmacy and other members of our Pharmaceutical Care Team to develop innovative pharmacy services. I guess you could say that I manage the development of these programs."

As a CDM in both diabetes and dyslipidemia, Hanson says that the credential has encouraged her to develop and maintain her knowledge and skills in those disease states. "The CDM shows my commitment to those particular areas of disease management. It also helps to strengthen our programs that we have developed. We have an ADA recognized Diabetes Self Management Education Program and both these credentials fit in quite well with this program."

The worth of the credential goes beyond the personal worth to Hanson. In her practice, she has noticed the effect that it has on patients and physicians. "I believe that patients are impressed to learn that I have sought to become certified in the particular areas and feel more confident in the care that I can provide. They can see my certificates since I have them hanging in the pharmacy and I get quite a few questions from patients about what the



Judith Sommers Hanson

CDM credential means."

It's not just the patients who are commenting. "Physicians that I have talked to and other patient care (i.e. ADA) associations are pleased to see that I have this credential. Something, perhaps, in the going beyond pharmacy school and CE learning strengthens their faith in me to provide this type of care."

NCSL Participation

If Hanson looks familiar to you, it may be because you read the CDM Profile in the Oct-Dec 2002 issue of *The CDM Pharmacist*. Hanson was one of four pharmacists who discussed their participation in the National Conference of

State Legislatures (NCSL) meeting. Hanson has participated in two NCSL meetings thus far, and found them to be rewarding and inspirational. "I personally was very excited to meet Legislators from my state and other parts of the country to share with them pharmacy's vision and how they can help us in achieving that vision. It is a non-threatening environment and a great way to get started in being an advocate for important pharmacy issues." At the conference itself, Hanson reported

conducting cholesterol and blood glucose screenings, counseling patients, and educating conference participants about the results of their blood glucose and cholesterol screenings. Hanson strongly urges pharmacists to become involved. "The Legislators are all very friendly and like to learn what pharmacists can do. Many of them are unaware of the pharmacist's full potential. By participating in NCSL or legislative days in your community we can share what a pharmacist is capable of and how we are under-utilized as the drug therapy experts that we are."

In the end, Hanson sums it up succinctly. "If we want to see things happen for pharmacy, we need to make it happen for ourselves."

If you would like to contact Judy to ask questions or share ideas, she may be reached at jsommers@voyager.net.



Hanson sees patients by appointment to provide education.

NISPC Online

Don't forget to visit NISPC online this year. Among the offerings on www.nispcnet.org are the following:

- News - The latest NISPC news and press releases are posted on the website, as well as back issues of *The CDM Pharmacist*. So if you missed one, here's your chance to catch up.
- Exam schedules and information - including an online application and the DSM Registration Bulletin.
- DSM Search - Remember to check your information and make sure it is correct. This is how patients will find you.
- FAQs and Links - The frequently asked questions area will answer any questions you might have, and the links page provides links to other associations and CE providers.

NISPC was formed in 1998 by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) to create a consolidated, nationally-recognized, disease state management credential for pharmacists.

Exam Info

Computerized: With over 700 testing sites nationwide, pharmacists can register to take the computerized version of any of the four DSM exams (anticoagulation, asthma, diabetes, and dyslipidemia), virtually any time of the year at their convenience. Call the NISPC Testing Center at 847-698-6227, or e-mail dsm@nabp.net for more information.

Paper-and-Pencil: We are pleased to offer the DSM exams in paper-and-pencil format at the following meeting locations:

- **February 8:** Georgia Pharmacists Association, Calhoun, GA
- **February 15:** Georgia Pharmacists Association, Tifton, GA
- **March 29:** APhA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
- **April:** NABP Annual Meeting, Chicago IL
- **June:** Georgia Pharmacists Association, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
- **June 9:** Drake University, Iowa
- **July:** AmerisourceBergen, Las Vegas, NV

Fees: \$250 per exam

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This letter is brought to you by the National Institute for Standards in Pharmacist Credentialing ■ www.nispcnet.org

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