NBRC
The National Board for Respiratory Care®

Credential Maintenance Program

Maintaining Your Respiratory Care Credentials

For individuals holding a credential with an expiration date.



EXCELLENCE
defines us.

The NBRC Credential Maintenance Program

For everyone whose mission involves protecting patient lives by ensuring quality respiratory care in the field, we all have one thing in common: EXCELLENCE defines us. At The National Board for Respiratory Care, our commitment to excellence includes providing the tools, options and support you need to maintain your credentials through our Credential Maintenance Program.

Each credential issued by the NBRC is awarded for a term of five years, calculated from the end of the calendar month in which the credential was issued. The five-year credential cycle is confirmed by survey responses of individuals participating in the credential maintenance program as the rate of change in underlying knowledge and pace of change in practice.

If you were a CRT, RRT, CRT-NPS, RRT-NPS, CRT-SDS, RRT-SDS, RRT-ACCS, CPFT, or RPFT credentialed by the NBRC on or after July 1, 2002, you must participate in the Credential Maintenance Program to maintain your NBRC credential. CRT, RRT, CRT-NPS, RRT-NPS, CRT-SDS, RRT-SDS, RRT-ACCS, CPFT, and RPFT credentials awarded prior to July 1, 2002 are not subject to the Credential Maintenance Program. All individuals holding the AE-C credential are required to participate in the Credential Maintenance Program for credential maintenance.



Three Options for Credential Maintenance

You may choose from the following three options to maintain and recertify your credentials every five years.

Option 1

Complete assessments and/or submit CE.

The assessment component is key in our goal of strengthening the relationship between competencies of credential holders and expectations linked to those credentials. Content will focus on tasks that put patients at risk and have a high pace of change.

The number of CE required is based on assessment performance and categorized in three zones: Green, Yellow, and Red. Strong performance on the assessments will place you in the Green or Yellow Zones, eliminating or reducing the amount of CE required.

Your personal dashboard in the practitioner portal will automatically keep track of assessment progress and will display your current CE requirement.

Visit nbrc.org to view required CE subject matter and credit requirements for each credential held, as well as combinations for those who hold multiple credentials.

Acceptable education requires participation in an educational activity directly related to respiratory therapy, pulmonary function or diagnostics technology, neonatal/pediatric, sleep testing and interventions, adult critical care, and asthma education depending on your credential(s). This includes any of the following:

- **Lecture** – A discourse given for instruction before an audience or through teleconference
- **Panel** – A presentation of multiple views by several professionals on a given subject with none of the views considered a final solution
- **Workshop** – A series of meetings for intensive, hands-on study or discussion in a specific area of interest

- **Seminar** – An advanced study or discussion in a specific field of interest
- **Symposium** – A conference of more than a single session organized for discussing a specific subject from various viewpoints and by various presenters
- **Online Education** – Includes materials such as text, Internet or CD, provided the proponent has included an independently scored test as part of the learning package

NBRC only accepts courses approved by state licensing boards in the United States for the purposes of respiratory care licensure and course credits from the American Association for Respiratory Care Continuing Respiratory Care Education Program (AARC-CRCE®) as fulfillment of the Credential Maintenance Program requirements for CE. Submitting and tracking your CEUs is fast and easy with the NBRC online practitioner portal for credentialed practitioners.

For individuals holding only the AE-C credential, continuing education requires the CEUs be in content areas specific to asthma education. See the detailed content outline online at nbrc.org. Accredited continuing education (CE) providers include, but are not limited to the Recognized Provider List located on our website and include accredited and approved educational institutions, and State Boards of Nursing.

AE-C continuing education activities (but not academic credit-granting courses) provided through accredited academic institutions within the United States or its territories granting degrees related to professional practice are also accepted (e.g., continuing education activity provided by an accredited academic institution's School of Nursing, Nutrition, Social Work, Medicine, Pharmacy, etc.).

Several state boards of licensure require AE-C continuing education for renewal of licensure. Acceptance by a state board of licensure does not guarantee that a continuing education program meets NBRC's criteria. The state board of licensure MUST be accredited or approved by one of the NBRC recognized provider(s) for an activity to be considered for NBRC renewal of certification.

Option 2

Retake and pass the respective examination for the highest credential held that is subject to the Credential Maintenance Program. AE-C credential holders must retake and pass the AE-C examination to comply with the CMP.

To recertify using this option, you must retake the examination during the last year of your five-year credential period. A new five-year period will begin on the date you successfully pass the examination. If you hold multiple credentials from the NBRC and elect to maintain your credentials through the examination option, you must successfully complete the examination for the highest level credential held that is subject to the Credential Maintenance Program.

Option 3

Pass an NBRC credentialing examination not previously completed.

Passing an NBRC credentialing examination that you did not previously complete automatically extends the recredentialing period of all NBRC credentials you hold for an additional five years (starting when you earn a new NBRC credential). As a result, all of your NBRC credentials will have the same expiration date, allowing you to simultaneously maintain all credentials in the future.

Continuing Education Documentation

If you choose Continuing Education (Option 1) to maintain your credential(s), you must submit your continuing education units (CEUs) and pay applicable fees online at nbrc.org prior to your credential expiration date. Failure to comply by the deadline will result in the expiration of your credential(s).

Program Fees

If you choose to maintain your credential(s) by taking the examination for the highest level credential held (Option 2), or by taking another NBRC credentialing examination not previously

completed (Option 3), you will not be required to submit Credential Maintenance Program compliance information; you need only to pay the examination fee. The examination application and fee serve as the required documentation for credential maintenance.

If you choose to maintain your credential(s) through the CE route (Option 1), you will be required to submit all CE information and payment online. The Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) fee* is collected annually in $25 increments over the 5-year credential term for years prior to 2027 and $30 annually for years 2027 and after. If you do not pay the CMP fee annually, you will be required to submit payment for years in which payment was not made. The Credential Maintenance Program fees for the CE option are listed in the following table:

STATUS	DESCRIPTION	FEE (*varies by payment year)
Paid annually	Individuals who pay their CMP fee each year of the five-year credential term	$30 per year
Not paid annually	Individuals who do NOT pay their CMP fee each year of the five-year credential term	$30 per year not paid during the 5-year credential term
Lapsed within 6-month grace period	Individuals whose credentials have lapsed but are within 6-months of credential expiration	$250 reinstatement fee
Lapsed more than 6 months	Individuals who do not complete one of the CMP options before their expiration date	Current examination fee

Completion of the Credential Maintenance Program

Once you have completed your Credential Maintenance Program option, a digital version of the certificate recognizing that accomplishment will be available in the Practitioner Portal and you may purchase a printed copy of your certificates and a wallet card as well.

Verification of Compliance

To ensure ongoing excellence for all credentialed practitioners, we audit a random sample of Credential Maintenance Program compliance documentation and confirm the validity of all submitted information with the appropriate parties. Information that appears to be falsified will be referred to the NBRC's Judicial and Ethics Committee for investigation and possible disciplinary action.

The Importance of Compliance

By maintaining your credential, you help ensure your continuous improvement and ongoing excellence in respiratory care. Once your credentials expire, they can no longer be used because they are federally registered trademarks reserved for use by individuals who successfully complete the examination(s) and participate in the mandatory Credential Maintenance Program. Therefore, any use of a credential designation – whether using it to sign a patient chart or medical document, applying for a state license as an individual holding the credential, or seeking employment as a credentialed respiratory care practitioner – violates the NBRC's Judicial and Ethics Policies, and can result in disciplinary action by the NBRC.

The status of your credential may also affect your state-issued license to practice respiratory care. Many states require you to maintain your NBRC credential in order to keep your license. By allowing your NBRC credential(s) to expire, you may be putting your state license to practice and your opportunity for continued employment at risk. Please check with your state licensure agency to confirm their requirements for maintaining your license. A directory of all state licensure agencies is available on nbrc.org.

If Your Credential Expires…

If you are within six months of credential expiration, you have the option of entering your CEUs online and paying a $250 reinstatement fee. Any CMP fees paid annually become void once your credential expires and your CEUs must have been earned during your five-year credential term. CEUs obtained after your credential expiration are not accepted. If your credential is expired more than six months, you

must apply for testing to reinstate your credential. You must meet the admission policies in effect at the time you apply and will be required to pay the new application fee. If you successfully complete the examination, your credential will be reinstated. If you have more than one expired credential, you must apply for and pass all examinations to reinstate your expired credentials.

Notification Procedures

To support you in maintaining your NBRC credentials, expiration reminders will be posted in your Message Center within the online practitioner portal. Additionally, we mail credential expiration reminders, including deadlines and credentialing maintenance requirements, via USPS at the following times:

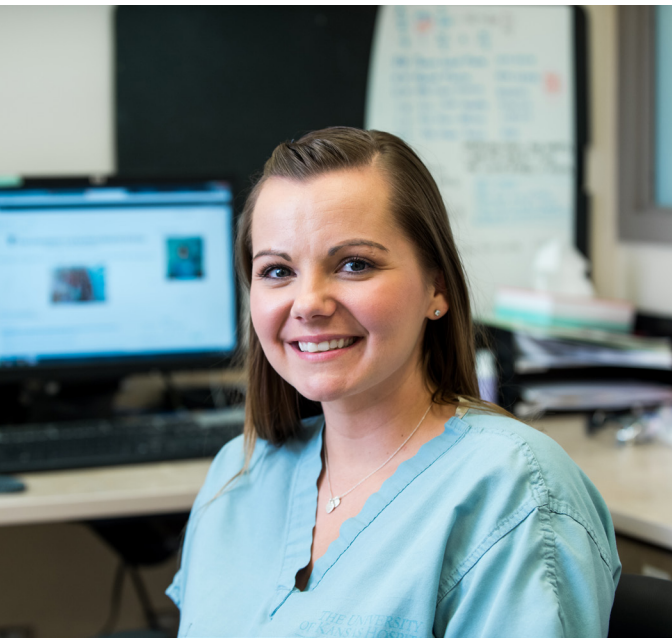
- One year before the expiration date of your credential.
- Six months before your credential's expiration date.
- 90 days before your credential's expiration date.
- 30 days before your credential's expiration date - final reminder.

Credentialed practitioners who allow their credentials to expire will be sent an email reminder before the 6-month grace period ends.

The NBRC will consider individual requests for extensions of the credentialing maintenance period due to personal emergencies or other extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

For More Information or Assistance

Please contact our Customer Care Specialists at the NBRC Executive Office using the contact information provided on the back of this brochure.



Copyright © 2026. The National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc., 10.07.26

NBRC
The National Board for Respiratory Care®

10801 Mastin Street, Suite 300
Overland Park, KS 66210

Phone: 913.895.4900
Fax: 913.712.9283
Email: info@nbrc.org
nbrc.org

EXCELLENCE defines us.