

Recertification

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

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.

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 of credits by the committee. Recertification can take up to, but is not limited to, 12 weeks.

The table below is in reference to the candidate's final year of certification*. As an example, if you tested in February 2010, your early recertification registration dates would begin March 1, 2013.

	CBN's who tested in the July window	CBN's who tested in the February window
Early Recertification Registration	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 possibility that there will be an interruption in your certification status)	May 1 through August 31	November 1 thru February 28
Late Registration for Recertification (For up to one year after certification expired - after one year of expirations, the certificant will need to apply as a new candidate and take the examination)	September 1 or after	March 1 or after

*CBN Certificants certified in June 2007 through July 2008 were unable to recertify in a timely manner due to technical issues with the online certification module and were allowed a one-time special provision for the group.

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

1. You must be currently licensed as a Registered Nurse (RN) in one of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia or Puerto Rico. A valid license number 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).

You must provide verification of both requirements upon request.

In addition, eligibility for the CBN Re-certification also requires adherence to the ASMBS Standards of Conduct, which can be found on pages 6 & 7 of the ASMBS CBN Candidate Handbook.

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. **Professional Development/Continuing Education Recertification Option:**
CBN Certificants must demonstrate that they have participated in continuing education relevant to the field of bariatric nursing. (Please see the section on continuing education below.)

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 exam will be based on the most current role delineation survey conducted by 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: Professional Development/Continuing Education 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 a continuing commitment to expand their knowledge and enhance their professional competency within their certification specialty of Morbid Obesity and Bariatric Surgery including co-morbidities.

Individuals who wish to complete recertification of their CBN credential by this method will be required to complete one of the following methods within the 48 months preceding the expiration of their certification:

- (1) 80 contact hours of continuing education,
- (2) 40 contact hours of continuing education and 2 presentations,
- (3) 40 contact hours of continuing education and 1 published article in a peer reviewed journal, or
- (4) 40 contact hours of continuing education and academic credits.

These activities must be completed prior to application for recertification.

1. 80 Contact Hours of Continuing Education

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 20-24).

- Continuing education hours require the content must be applicable to nursing care of the morbid 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).
- 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 22-26) (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).

Equivalencies: 1 contact hour = 0.1 Continuing Education Unit (CEU)
1 CEU = 10 contact hours
1 CME = 1 contact hours

2. 40 Contact Hours of Continuing Education and 2 Presentations

Presentations

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 2 clock hours; more than two 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 modifications of the same material.

- Patient education presentations that are given to patients as a portion of the duties of your nursing position will not be accepted.

3. 40 Contact Hours of Continuing Education and 1 Published Article in a peer-reviewed journal

Publication or Research

- One (1) article published in a peer-reviewed journal or a book chapter related to your certification specialty. You must be the author, co-author, editor, or the co-editor.
- Four (4) different articles related to your certification specialty published in a non-peer reviewed journals.
- Primary author of content related to your certification specialty utilized in e-learning and/or other media presentation.
- 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.

4. 40 Contact Hours of Continuing Education and Academic Credits

Academic Credits:

- Complete four semester credits or six quarter credits 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.

Recertification Process and Documentation

CBN certificants who are seeking recertification through the continuing education option are encouraged to complete the “CBN Continuing Education Recertification Option Documentation Worksheet” prior to registering for recertification. Go to www.asmb.org/cbn-program/ for this worksheet to organize your recertification documentation. **All certificants will be required to complete the ONLINE Recertification Registration found at www.asmb.org.**

Audit

If your certification record is selected for audit, you will be required to submit supporting documents such as a copy of the presentation outline, abstract, letter accepting your abstract, or a letter inviting you to speak, and to provide evidence that you actually presented the topic e.g. a thank you letter on official letterhead. 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:

The recertification fee must be paid online by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover). ***Any other form of payment will not be accepted; and your application will remain unprocessed.***

	Early Recertification Application Fee (up to 120 days before expiration)	Regular Recertification Application Fee (Within 120 days of expiration)	Late Recertification Fee (up to 365 days after CBN expiration)
ASMBS 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 participants in the role delineation constituted a nationally representative group of practitioners involved in bariatric nursing. The results of this study provided current information to delineate the appropriate content, scope and complexity for the CBN.

For detailed information 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.

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 job analysis study. Members of the item writing and exam 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 # 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).

Caring for patients hospitalized for non-related conditions or surgeries does not qualify.

International nurses will be eligible to sit for the CBN examination beginning in July of 2008.

Acceptable international nurse licensure will be determined on an individual basis by the ASMBS.