

## Definition of Diabetes Care and Education (DCE)

Diabetes self-management education and support or DSMES, historically also referred to as diabetes self-management training or diabetes education, is performed by health professionals who have appropriate credentials and experience consistent with the particular profession's scope of practice. For purposes of this Handbook, diabetes care and education (DCE) is used.

DCE<sup>‡</sup> involves the person with prediabetes or diabetes and/or the caregivers and the specialist(s) and is defined as the ongoing process of facilitating the knowledge, skill, and ability necessary for prediabetes and diabetes self-care, as well as activities that assist a person in implementing and sustaining the health practices needed to manage the condition on an ongoing basis, beyond or outside of formal self-management training. It is a component of a comprehensive plan of diabetes care. The process incorporates the needs, goals and life experiences of the person with prediabetes or diabetes and is guided by evidence-based standards. DCE should include practical problem-solving approaches and collaborative care, address psychosocial issues, lifestyle change, and strategies to sustain self-management.

**For purposes of certification eligibility, some or all of the following components of the DCE process may be performed and counted towards meeting the DCE practice experience requirement:**

- **Assessment:** The participant's DCE needs are identified. This process is led by the participant with assessment and support of the educator.
- **Education and Care Plan:** The participant's individualized education and care plan is developed. The plan reflects the participant's self-management goals and current evidence and practice guidelines and includes criteria for evaluating outcomes.
- **Interventions:** The specialist delivers intervention options to assist the participant in meeting self-management goals. **Ongoing Support:** The specialist provides options for ongoing support and resources. The support option(s) is selected by the participant to best meet their self-management goals.
- **Participant Progress:** The specialist will monitor and communicate whether the participant is achieving their self-management goals and other outcome(s) to evaluate effectiveness of interventions. Additional assessments are based on the participant's needs across the lifespan.

- **Documentation:** The specialist documents the assessment, education plan, intervention, and outcomes in the participant's health record.
- **Services Development/Administration:** Development and administrative activities performed as part of DSMES services.

**Have you read the definition and not sure if you are providing DCE? For more information visit our website: <https://www.cbdce.org/eligibility>.**

**Note: Regardless of discipline, knowledge (and the ability to apply that knowledge) is necessary across all areas of the examination content outline.**

<sup>‡</sup>Adapted from the 2022 National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support, American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Care, (NSDSMES) updated every year as the 1st supplement of "Diabetes Care."

## On the Other Hand...

For initial certification, there are activities that are **not** considered DCE for purposes of certification eligibility and should not be included as part of Professional Practice Experience. While not an exhaustive list, the following are examples of such activities:

### Occupational Activities

- demonstrating a basic skill in which the health professional is not providing DCE
- providing medical assessment or diagnosis
- conducting/participating in research activities in which the health professional is not providing DCE
- dispensing/prescribing medications
- promoting sales of diabetes medications, supplies, and products

### Professional Activities

- providing continuing education to professionals (e.g., teaching nurses, physicians)
- membership or committee work in professional organizations

### Personal Activities

- having diabetes or caring for a family member with diabetes
- diabetes-related volunteer activities that do not include some or all of the components of DCE