

Certified Professional in Clinical Health Equity (CPCHE)[™] Recertification Handbook

September 2025

CPCHE

Certified Professional in
Clinical Health Equity

ihi.org/cpche

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Recertification Guidelines

The Certified Professional in Clinical Health Equity (CPCHE) program certifies health care professionals who meet the competency requirements in the areas of clinical health equity, and who demonstrate the ability to apply this knowledge to effectively plan and implement health equity initiatives.

The CPCHE credential establishes core standards for the field of clinical health equity, benchmarks requirements necessary for health care professionals, and sets an expected proficiency level. It gives those working in health equity a means to demonstrate their proficiency and skill in the discipline and provides a way for employers to validate a potential candidate's health equity knowledge and skill base, critical competencies in today's health care environment.

The purpose of recertification is to promote continued competence in the field of clinical health equity. A panel of subject matter experts recommended to CBPPS a three year recertification cycle, given the pace at which best practices, technologies, and equity standards evolve, and to balance maintaining rigor and being feasible for busy professionals. This answer helped inform the Board's decision to set the recertification interval to every three years. This decision was further supported by the Board's commitment to a Job Analysis/Study of Practice every 3-5 years. The Board felt these requirements would serve to promote continued competence while not being overly burdensome to the certified professional.

Following successful completion of the CPCHE examination, the certificant is required recertify every three years. There are currently two acceptable paths to recertification. Recertification Path I includes obtaining and maintaining documentation of 45 CE hours over the 3-year recertification cycle and payment of a recertification fee. All CE must relate to areas covered in the most current examination content outline. Recertification Path II requires sitting for and passing the CPCHE examination within one year prior to their expiration date.

Recertification Cycle

Each recertification cycle is 3 years in length. Certificants must apply for recertification by the end of the month in which they originally received certification (i.e., an individual certified on October 1, 2025, must reapply by October 31, 2028).

Application Refusal

Applications may be refused, candidates may be barred from future examinations, or candidates or individuals may be sanctioned including revocation of the CPCHE designation, for the following reasons:

1. Attesting to false information on the application or on recertification documents
2. Unauthorized possession or distribution of any official testing or examination materials
3. Representing oneself falsely as a designated CPCHE

Credential Revocation

If you do not recertify by your expiration date, your certification will be revoked for failure to comply with recertification requirements. Individuals whose credentials have been revoked may not use the CPCHE credential when representing themselves. Recertification applications must be submitted by the end of the calendar month in which you were certified. A grace period exists for up to 30 days post expiration date (additional fees may apply). Beyond the 30 days, CBPPS will not approve any appeals for missed deadlines. You will be required to sit for the examination to use the credential again.

Inactive Status Policy

Because the field of health equity is changing and evolving continually, the CPCHE must pursue ongoing education to stay current. For this reason, an inactive path, retired path, or waiver of the CE requirement is not available.

Two paths to recertification are available, as described below. Please submit your completed application to certification@ihi.org.

Path I: CPCHE Recertification by Continuing Education (CE) Hours

To be eligible for recertification by continuing professional education (CE hours), the certificant must obtain and maintain documentation of 45 CE hours over the 3-year recertification period and pay the recertification fee. All CE must relate to areas covered in the most current examination content outline. Please refer to the Continuing Education table on pages 5-8 of this handbook for a complete list of accepted activities.

All continuing professional education that follows the CPCHE Content Outline is accepted. It is not a requirement to have the hours approved as CPCHE hours.

Activities completed as part of your job or work responsibilities are not accepted for recertification. Continuing professional education for CPCHE recertification may include, but is not limited to, activities such as:

Educational Programs

Participation in lectures, workshops, education sessions or case presentations provided by a health care association or society, health care facility or provider of services to a health care facility, or an industry-recognized provider of education.

Self-Study

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Audio conferences/webinars
- Online educational programs
- Writing questions for the CPCHE Examination
- Completion of the CPCHE Practice Examination administered by PSI

Professional Speaking/Teaching

Examples include presentations/abstracts made by you at a national, regional, state, or local professional association/society. Credit may be declared for twice the length of the educational program or speech. *Presentations given as part of your job or work responsibilities are not accepted for recertification.*

Formal Publication of Articles or Books

Authoring a chapter in a published book earns 10 CEs. Authoring an article published in peer-reviewed journals or periodicals earns 5.0 CEs. Authoring a blog earns 2.5 CEs. Poster presentations at conferences earn 2.5 CEs.

Path II: CPCHE Recertification by Examination

To be eligible for recertification by examination, the certificant must sit for and pass the CPCHE examination within one year prior to their certification expiration date.

Continuing Education (CE) Table (Path I)

Type	Type Code	Description	CPCHE CE Calculation	Documentation
Education program And/or Self-study, including audio conference, or online education program	A	Participation in an online or in-person lecture, workshop, or education session provided by a professional health care association/society, health care facility, or an industry-recognized provider of education. Multiple participations in the same	1 hour = 1 CE	Documentation of attendance or completion of program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Completion or • Official course description and

		<p>course may only be counted once.</p> <p>Earning a different certification cannot be applied towards your recertification. If you attended a review course preparing for a certification during your recertification cycle, this may be counted if the course content relates to one or more of the exam domains.</p>		proof of registration
Academic coursework (in person or online)	B	From an accredited college or university.	<p>1 semester credit = 15 CEs</p> <p>1 trimester credit = 12.5 CEs</p> <p>1 quarter credit = 10 CEs</p> <p>Completed dissertation, thesis, or graduate-level scholarly project = 30 CEs</p>	Academic transcript (official or unofficial)
Professional speaking/teaching	C	At an educational program or a meeting of a national, regional, state, or local professional association/society. Multiple presentations of the same speech/program may only be counted once.	1 hour presentation = 2 CEs	Letter from the organization to which you spoke or copy of conference book indicating session and your name listed as a speaker.
Academic course development	D	Academic course developed and accepted as part of a curriculum. Content relates to one of the exam domains.	1 hour of course content developed = 2 CEs	Documentation (letter or curriculum outline) from the academic institution in which the course has been presented.
Academic course delivery	E	Academic course delivery (teaching). Content relates to one of the exam domains.	<p>1 semester credit = 30 CEs</p> <p>1 trimester credit = 25 CEs</p>	Documentation (letter, website, or curriculum outline) from the academic institution in which the course was

		Teaching at an accredited college or university (permitted only if this is not your full-time job)	1 quarter credit = 20 CEs	taught.
Item writing	F	For a CBPPS/IHI Certification, SAE, or Review Course.	0.5 CEs per submitted item	Letter from CBPPS verifying participation (contact certification@ihi.org to obtain your letter)
Exam Development/ Review Committees	G	For a CBPPS/IHI Certification Examination or SAE.	1 CE per hour of review	Letter from CBPPS verifying participation (contact certification@ihi.org to obtain your letter)
Self-Assessment Examination (Practice Exam)	H	Completion of a CBPPS/IHI Self-Assessment Examination.	2 CEs	Copy of score report or completion email.
Authoring/ Publishing	I	Formal publication of articles, books, blogs, or poster presentations.	<p>Authoring a chapter in a published book earns 10 CEs.</p> <p>Authoring an article published in peer-reviewed journals or periodicals earns 5.0 CEs.</p> <p>Authoring a blog earns 2.5 CEs.</p> <p>Poster presentations at conferences earn 2.5 CEs.</p>	<p>Book/Article: Copy of chapter, article, or publication showing your name listed as author.</p> <p>Blog: Image of or link to blog showing you as the author.</p> <p>Poster: Letter or email confirmation from the organization to which your poster was accepted indicating acceptance and your name listed.</p>
Research	J	An institutional review board (IRB) research project related to one of the exam domains, completed during your 3-year certification	1 project = 15 CEs	Copy of IRB approval letter or IRB letter of exemption and a onepage abstract, no more than 250 words,

		period, for which you are clearly identified as one of the primary researchers, and research is not a primary component of your employment responsibilities.		describing the research study and findings and the period when the research was conducted.
Professional Service	K	Participation in volunteer service during your certification period with an international, national, state, or local health care related organization in which your certification specialty expertise is required. Accepted volunteer activities including serving on boards of directors, committees, editorial boards, review boards, expert panels, and task forces, as an article/journal reviewer, and/or leading safety improvement (i.e., MIPs).	1 CE credit per hour of service.	The official description of your volunteer duties (e.g., copy of an official letter or other documents from the organization attesting to your service and dates and hours of service).
IHI Conferences	L	Attendance at annual IHI meetings.	CE hours vary.	Certificate of completion.
IHI Certification Review Course	M	Participation in a review course. Live, webinar, or online.	CE hours vary.	Certificate of completion.

Content Code	CPCHE Content Outline Category
1	Health Systems and Context
2	Equitable Health Care Assessment and Design
3	Health Data and Information

Clinical Health Equity: Examination Content Outline

1	Health Systems and Context	21
1A	Historical Context	
1A1	History and Impacts of Systems of Oppression and Bias in Health Care and Research	
1A2	Practices and Approaches (e.g., Restorative Justice, Consensus, and Intersectionality)	
1B	System Context	
1B1	Challenges and Barriers to Health Equity	
1B2	Structural and Systemic Drivers of Inequities	
2	Equitable Health Care Assessment and Design	53
2A	Individual-Level Factors for Health Care Workforce	
2A1	Bias Recognition, Internalized Systems of Oppression and Privilege	
2A2	Power Dynamics and Co-production	
2A3	Socio-ecological Model	
2B	Health System Infrastructures and Operations	
2B1	Structural Racism and Bias	
2B2	Social Drivers/Determinants of Health and Resources	
2B3	Trauma-Informed and Inclusive Care	
2B4	Health Care Systems, Policy, and Financing Fundamentals	
2B5	Organizational Advocacy	
2C	Quality Improvement and Change Management	
2C1	Program Planning and Evaluation	
2C2	Human Centered Design and Co-Design	
2C3	Quality/Safety Improvement (e.g. methods, approaches, testing)	
2C4	Change Management Frameworks and Implementation	
3	Health Data and Information	26
3A	Democratization of Data and Community Co-Ownership	
3A1	Research Methods and Design (e.g., participatory, community-partnership, community assessment)	
3A2	Equitable Data Processes (e.g., collection, stratification, analysis, and use)	
3A3	Qualitative Practices and Person-centered Perspectives (e.g., ethical storytelling, additional ways of knowing)	
3A4	Collaboration, Co-design, and Interpretation of Findings	
3A5	Dissemination/Translation of Information	
3A6	Bioethics and Ethics	

Secondary Classifications

1. Advocate for and promote the positive impact of health equity on individuals, communities, organizations, and systems.
2. Recognize bias and practice cultural humility to identify areas of health care improvement.
3. Assess an organization's processes, policies, governance, work environment, and structure to make recommendations to improve equitable health outcomes and practices.
4. Identify historical, cultural, and community context (including trauma) to provide person-centered clinical care and equitable outcomes.
5. Identify system factors, power dynamics, entrenched systems of power, external and internal factors affecting health equity including using improvement methods to identify drivers and change ideas.
6. Identify internal and external policies, procedures, and resources that may be barriers to providing equitable care.
7. Co-design interventions with key parties, including persons, families/guardians, care partners, communities, and staff, for equitable health outcomes.
8. Work in interdisciplinary teams/collectives to collaborate among individuals with diverse expertise, lived experience, and perspectives to address culture, care, and outcomes.
9. Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) initiatives to improve health outcomes.
10. Support internal cultural change towards shared ownership for equity.
11. Measure the impact of equity work on the perceptions of staff, care providers, and patients.
12. Use metrics to measure health outcomes within an organization or community, including identifying inequities and improvements in outcomes.
13. Measure and monitor the impact of health equity improvement initiatives.
14. Advocate for resources needed to improve health equity.
15. Apply a health equity lens to anticipate resource distribution for strategic initiatives and goals.
16. Support workforce/partner education strategies to advance equitable health services and outcomes.
17. Implement change strategies/initiatives/plans to support equitable health services and outcomes.
18. Collaborate with and support community change efforts to address structural and social drivers/determinants of health.
19. Design, interpret, and present local health and community data/information to identify gaps and biases.
20. Engage with community to work in partnership on health equity improvements.
21. Incorporate qualitative practices and methods including person-centered perspectives (e.g., ethical storytelling, additional ways of knowing).

22. Apply basic research knowledge and principles (e.g., methods, design, dissemination, translation) to support equity work.
23. Apply bioethics and ethics to the design and dissemination/translation of information.
24. Apply health equity standards of practice for accrediting, regulatory, and/or governing bodies.

CPCHE RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Date Certified (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Name: _____
First Middle Initial Last

Organization: _____

Job Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email: _____

PATH I: Recertification by Continuing Education (CE) Hours

Requirements:

- ☐ Certificant Information (page 11)
- ☐ Completed Continuing Education Documentation Worksheet (pages 13-14)
- ☐ Supporting Documentation For Claimed Activity
- ☐ Recertification Fee (page 12)

PATH II: Recertification by Examination

- ☐ Certificant Information (page 11)
- ☐ PSI Passing Score Report

I hereby verify that the information contained in this recertification application is true and accurate.

Signature

Date

Payment (required for Path I: Continuing Education *only*)

Please visit ihi.org/CPCHE to pay online.

Amount:

- ☐ United States: \$175 US
- ☐ International: \$225 US*

*International fee includes an additional fee to cover higher processing expenses to addresses outside the US.

Continuing Education Documentation

Title and Description of Activity	Provider or Sponsoring Organization	Date of Activity	Content Code (1-3)	Type Code (A-M)	CE Hours	Documentation Attached?

If you encounter any issues completing the Continuing Education table, please use [this linked Excel sheet](#) as an alternative to document your CE activities.

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