

NMTCB REPORT

**Mark H. Crosthwaite, CNMT
Chair**

The issue of mandating continuing education credit has been of great interest to many of us. After calling a special all day meeting in Atlanta, the NMTCB Board passed the following motion regarding continuing education and re-examination for the demonstration of continued competency:

Be it resolved that the NMTCB adopts a policy of providing continuing competency examinations for certificants beginning in 1998. It is intended that:

1. This is not mandatory but will provide a means for showing continuing competency for institutional, state and/or federal requirements.
2. The exam will be a convenient computer adaptive exam given frequently and at multiple sites and locations. (The exam will be considerably shorter than the entry level exam.)
3. The word examinations implies that it will be available by topic, group or in its entirety. (Examples of groups/topics would be radiation safety, nuclear cardiology, etc.)
4. Any certificant that retakes the exam, in part or in full, will be awarded special recognition.

Regarding continuing education:

1. The NMTCB will recognize individuals who complete continuing education credit as verified by VOICE.
2. VOICE credit will be identified on the annual renewal cards.

There are several points which are important for understanding why the above motion was passed. First, does continuing education represent continuing competency? The answer is that continued competency cannot be demonstrated by an individual simply acquiring continuing education credits. If competency could be demonstrated by taking courses, there would be no need for a certification exam in the first place. In order to truly identify if a technologist has continuing competency, a re-examination representing a cross section of knowledge within the specified profession must be taken. Therefore, the NMTCB Board has decided to develop a recertification exam which will not be mandatory. Likewise, although it is important to attend programs and receive continuing education credits in nuclear medicine, the NMTCB does not believe that it has the right to

EXAMINATION DATES The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board 1995

Exam Date	Application Date
Sept. 23, 1995	July 15, 1995

For more information or to request an application, contact:

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take away someone's certification based on the fact that a technologist has failed to attain a certain number of CEUs. However, the need to document, record and recognize a technologist's efforts to attain CEUs and for the technologist to voluntarily take a recertification exam has been established.

The implementation of recording and documenting CEUs and re-examination will start in 1998. Development of a recertification exam will take place after the new computer adaptive testing (CAT) format has been implemented. Prior to that time, should any certificant wish to retake the current exam, he may call the NMTCB office for an application.

One last point on continuing competency, the NMTCB Board realizes that once

someone passes the NMTCB exam no one should have the right to take away that certification. To do so would negate previously demonstrated competency in the nuclear medicine profession. A policy that sets a precedent to negate a technologist's credentials is outside the scope of what the NMTCB Board of Directors believes a certifying organization should do.

The NMTCB has adopted the new CAT exam format. American College Testing (ACT) has been contracted to develop and administer the CAT exam. The scheduled time for implementation is spring of 1996. A presentation on CAT was given by Michael Yester, PhD, for attendees of the Society of Nuclear Medicine annual meeting. This informational session defined CAT, discussed the advantages of CAT over the paper and pencil format and identified how the NMTCB would implement the new exam process. The session was well received by numerous educators.

To further assist in understanding CAT, the NMTCB is developing a demonstration disk of the CAT exam. This will be available to nuclear medicine technologists and should be of special interest to students and educators in nuclear medicine.

In order for us to implement CAT in 1996, additional efforts must be made in exam development, specifically in writing questions for the item bank. The NMTCB is making a concerted effort to increase the size of the item bank. To meet this new demand, we are looking for additional item writers to compose exam questions. If you are interested in writing test questions, please call the NMTCB office and sign up as an item writer.

The NMTCB has identified an alternate track for exam eligibility which will allow certain individuals who did not graduate from an accredited program to qualify for taking the NMTCB exam. At present, a certain number of clinical hours will be required along with the satisfactory completion of several courses in nuclear medicine. There will be more to report on this topic after the board meets in the fall.

Should you have issues that you feel the NMTCB Board should address regarding our profession, we welcome your comments. Please contact Jim Greene, NMTCB Executive Director, or me, through our Atlanta office.

NMTCB Board of Directors

Are you interested in becoming a member of the NMTCB Board of Directors? This is an excellent opportunity to get involved with one of the more challenging areas of your profession. Candidates for the board are nominated by the Technologist Section, SNM. Nominees are forwarded to the NMTCB office. The board will then review and consider all candidates and make the selection at the fall 1995 board meeting. If you are interested, contact your SNM-TS chapter president or Virginia Pappas at the SNM-TS national office, 703-708-9000, ext. 241.