

Certifications

Certified Clinical Transplant Dietitian (CCTD)

Frequently Asked Questions

1) *What is the deadline to apply for the CCTD certification?*

CCTD applications can be submitted anytime but are only processed twice annually, April 1st and October 1st. Application will close at 11:59 pm CST the night before April/October 1st.

2) *Do you need to be a NATCO member to apply?*

No, first time CCTD applicants will be offered a 1-year NATCO membership upon application as eligible.

3) *Is a written test required to obtain the CCTD certification?*

No, the CCTD is an experience-based certification.

4) *Do FMLA hours count toward my minimum amount of practicing hours for certification or recertification?*

No, the period of time taken for FMLA (parental, medical leave, etc.) does not allow for the dietitian to have interaction with transplant patients, multidisciplinary team, attend meetings, etc.

5) *When will I be notified of a decision regarding my CCTD status?*

The CCTD workgroup will review and process all applications. You will receive a decision via email within 4-6 weeks from the processing date by the CCTD committee. A congratulatory email and electronic certificate will also be emailed to each approved applicant.

6) *What happens if my application is found to be incomplete or requires additional clarification?*

The CCTD workgroup will email applicants with incomplete or non-conforming eligibility documentation for further clarification. Applicants are then given 10 days to respond or the application is denied. The \$25 application fee is non-refundable in the case of denied applications.

7) What does the CCTD workgroup consider a "National Transplant or National Nutritional Conference"?

A national conference is most often characterized by speakers from multiple institutions, is targeted to a professional audience and provided accredited CEUs, including NATCO, ISHLT, ASPEN, AND, ASTS, ATC, TMF, etc. Applicants submitting under the eligibility requirement of a national conference must submit documentation to this effect.

8) How do I know if my CEU is "solid organ transplant specific?"

Transplant-specific education includes the following:

Any offering from NATCO or other national transplant-related organizations such as:

- American Foundation for Donation and Transplantation (AFDT)
- American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS)
- American Society for Transplantation (AST)
- International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS)
- International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)
- International Transplant Nurses Society (ITNS)
- Organ Donation and Transplantation Alliance (The Alliance)
- United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)

and/or

Any offering from a national nutrition or medical organization specific to transplant nutrition or transplant dietitian practices. These organizations may include:

- The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
- American Society of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition (ASPEN)
- National Kidney Foundation (NKF)
- Dietitians in Nutrition Support

and/or

Any offering that provides Category 1 CME approved credits on a transplant specific topic.

NATCO Transplant Nutrition Workgroup will accept any of these educational offerings regardless of whether they have been approved by bodies like the Commission of Dietetic Registration (CDR).

Continuing education should be specific to solid organ transplant, which includes heart, lung, liver, kidney, and pancreas. Non-solid organ transplant such as islet cell, stem cell, bone marrow, and small bowel do not fall under the scope of this certification.

Disease specific CEUs (e.g. ESRD, COPD, NASH/ESLD) will only be counted in the setting of solid organ transplant candidates, recipients, or donors. Transplant specific CEUs may be that of a general solid organ transplant topic, as overall transplant knowledge is important for transplant dietitian practice.

9) *Can I use an acceptance letter as the qualifying experience requirement to apply or must I wait until the poster, webinar, or presentation is performed?*

Being accepted to a National Conference is just part of the work. The skills of developing and performing the presentation are major components. Please wait until the presentation has been completed before applying for CCTD certification.

10) *What is the best way to provide the CCTD workgroup with my CEUs?*

Please provide a detailed attachment with the following documentation for all Solid Organ Transplant Specific CEUs:

- Title of education presentation
- Date of completion
- CEU credits and type (CDR or Category 1 CME)
- Copy of certificate

11) *What is a Category 1 CME?*

Continuing Medication Education (CME) refers to a specific form of continuing education in the medical field commonly used by physicians. Category 1 CME credits are typically pre-approved prior to the continuing education event and is often noted on the attendance certificate.

12) *Can an international practitioner apply for CCTD?*

Yes, international applicants are encouraged to apply.

13) *When do I need to re-certify my CCTD credential:*

The CCTD certification last for 3 years, which at that time the practitioner can choose to reapply for certification. Details for re-certification are outlined on the NATCO website.

14) *What is the cost of CCTD certification?*

Existing NATCO Member - \$200 includes \$25 administration fee, application cost, a one-time, one-year extension of your current NATCO membership

New NATCO Member - \$200 includes \$25 administration fee, application cost and one-year NATCO membership

Non-NATCO Member - \$225 includes \$25 administration fee and application cost without NATCO membership

15) What is the cost of CCTD recertification?

Recertification for existing NATCO members (with ≥ 6 months of membership remaining at the time of application)- \$50

Recertification with one-year NATCO Membership - \$225

Recertification without one-year NATCO Membership -\$250

16) Who processes the CCTD applications?

The CCTD Workgroup, composed of 6-10 transplant dietitians, process all applications, and make decisions regarding CCTD candidacy.

17) How do I designate my credentials if I already have a specialist certification CNSC, CSR, CSP, or CSO etc.?

Per Commission on Dietetic Registration:

Graduate academic degree

RD or RDN

Specialty certifications with the Commission on Dietetic Registration (e.g. CSG, CSO, SCP, CSSD, CSR)

Licensure designation, other certifications (e.g., CDE, CNSC). Do not modify your current licensure designation.

Example: Jane Doe, MS, RDN, LD, CNSC, CCTD