

"Certified Asthma and Respiratory Educators (CAEs and CREs) perform a critical role in improving the lives of Canadians living with respiratory illness. Our highly professional, knowledgeable and skilled CAEs and CREs support the disease management approach: education, evaluation and reinforcement. Education takes time!" Dr. Harold Kim

Dr. Harold KimPresident
Canadian Network for Respiratory Can



The Canadian Network for Respiratory
Care (CNRC) is a non-profit association
and registered charity. CNRC, through its
Certified Asthma and Respiratory
Educators (CAEs and CREs) and member
organizations, works to improve the quality
of life for Canadians and their families
living with respiratory disease, by
developing, promoting and advocating the
highest standards of quality respiratory
healthcare and innovative education.



Canadian Network for Respiratory Care

Promoting respiratory care and education

Respiratory disease affects 1 in 5 Canadians

Canada has one of the highest rates of asthma in the world, with an estimated three million Canadians living with asthma. Most Canadians with asthma do not have their asthma under control. Several Canadian studies have shown that proper patient education results in fewer symptoms, fewer trips to the emergency room and even a reduced number of asthma deaths.

For education to result in behaviour change, it must be provided by highly trained educators.

COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) is on the rise globally and is projected to become the third leading cause of death worldwide by 2020. It is the only chronic disease with increasing mortality rates. There is, however, a serious lack of awareness of COPD amongst the public and healthcare professionals.

Smoking cessation, regular exercise, vaccination and self-management have all been shown to have substantial effects on the progression and development of COPD. Education will play an increasingly important role in helping to manage this preventable and treatable disease.

Certification

Certification for Asthma and Respiratory Educators (CAEs and CREs)

In 1999, the Canadian Network for Asthma Care (CNAC) established a national certification program for Canadian asthma educators – creating the Certified Asthma Educator (CAE). In 2007, the Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE) exam was developed for educators of both asthma and COPD. In 2009, the organization changed its name to the Canadian Network for Respiratory Care (CNRC).

Who Can Become a CAE or CRE?

Nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, dieticians, and medical doctors – are among the many healthcare professionals who have chosen to become certified as asthma and/or respiratory educators.

Certified asthma and respiratory educators teach Canadians about their asthma and COPD, including: preventative measures, how to avoid triggers, the proper use of medications, diet and lifestyle counselling, and the use of written action plans that allow rapid adjustment of medications when symptoms worsen.

How Do Educators Become Certified?

Educators are certified after successfully writing the national CAE or CRE exam. These exams are based on CNRC National Learning Objectives as well as the most up-to-date Canadian asthma and/or COPD consensus guidelines.

In order to write the exam, educators must first graduate from a CNRC-approved asthma educator program for the CAE exam or both a CNRC-approved asthma educator and COPD educator program or combined respiratory educator program to write the CRE exam. Applicants must also have a degree or diploma in a recognized healthcare profession with scope of practice to include counselling.

Continuing Education & Advocacy

Recertification for CAEs and CREs

To ensure that CAEs and CREs provide the latest, most comprehensive and up-to-date information on asthma, COPD and education principles, all certified educators are required to recertify every five years. CAEs and CREs must submit an application showing that they have completed 500 total hours of asthma and/or respiratory education experience as well as professional development over four years. They can also choose to re-write the CAE or CRE exam.

Conference on Asthma and Respiratory Education (ASED)

CNRC holds a biennial, national conference on asthma, related allergy and respiratory education. This highly anticipated and successful conference is created by our certified educators and attracts a wide range of healthcare professionals. Since the first conference, the program has evolved to cover topics of interest to educators and showcases the best principles in education techniques. Sessions range from entertaining and knowledge-based plenary sessions to interactive, hands-on workshops.

Canadian Paediatric Consensus Guidelines

CNRC also took the lead to develop the first-ever Canadian Paediatric Asthma Consensus Guidelines. Working closely with the Canadian Thoracic Society's Adult Consensus Guidelines, a series of expert resource groups created recommendations on the best approaches for prevention and treatment of asthma in children. These important guidelines were published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal in 2005.

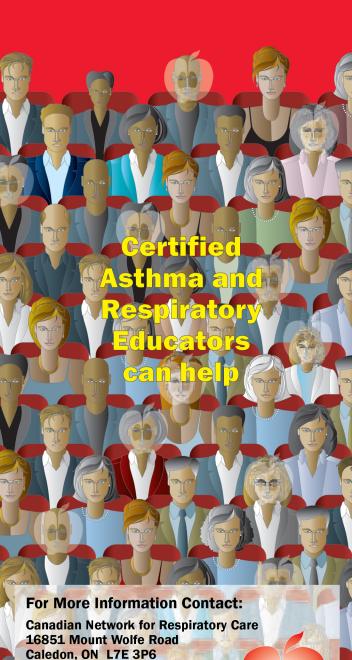
Advocacy on Respiratory Issues

CNRC is a unique example of cooperation and collaboration amongst numerous healthcare organizations. We provide a unified voice on respiratory healthcare and education issues in Canada. In particular, CNRC will continue to champion the critical role that CAEs and CREs perform in helping Canadians live better with respiratory illness.

Where health professionals go







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Where health professionals go