

Hello from the Child Life Certifying Committee (CLCC)!

We are continuing in our preparations to become your Child Life Certification Commission. While the name will change to reflect certification's authority over all things related to eligibility, certification and recertification, we will always be your CLCC!

As we proceed through the transition process, we recognized the need to reorganize some of the documents familiar to us all (Code of Professional Practice, Candidate Manual, Recertification Manual) and to create comprehensive CLCC Policies and Procedures. In this reorganizing, we have decided to retire the Code of Professional Practice and break this document down into policies to offer better clarity. The content/policies will remain the same, but it will be reformatted. There has been confusion for many as we have had two documents within ACLP referred to as a "code". The Code of Ethical Responsibility is the 2nd document, and as it lists the 13 principles for all child life specialists to follow in their practice, we believe the title of "code" belongs with this document.

In addition to document reviews, we have been focusing on current practices within certification. ACLP and CLCC leadership together have decided to separate the creation of exam preparation materials for candidates from CLCC and to look to another group within ACLP to take on this important task. This is a necessary transition for CLCC compliance with best practice standards for credentialing bodies.

Finally, CLCC has been focused on providing clarity in all areas of certification.

- The Undergrad Endorsement Review Sub-Committee (UERC) has provided suggestions to help offer better clarity in our course descriptions for the upcoming 2019 eligibility requirements. Information is forthcoming.

In This Issue

[Hello from the CLCC Chair](#)

[Important Dates to Remember](#)

[What's in a Domain? The Exam Content Outline and PDUs](#)

[Certification Exam Update](#)

[Other Program Highlights](#)

Certification Numbers

Total Current CCLSs: 5847

Residing in:
US- 5416
Australia - 6
Canada - 324
China - 1
Georgia - 1
Guatemala - 1
Hong Kong - 7
India - 1
Italy - 1
Japan - 46
Kenya - 2
Kuwait - 2
Mexico - 2
New Zealand - 4
Norway - 1
Puerto Rico - 1
Philippines - 3
Qatar - 8
Romania - 1
Saudi Arabia - 1
Singapore - 3
South Africa - 1
Spain - 1

- We have taken a deep look at CLCC's historical perspective on eligibility and how eligibility is to be determined.
- We have focused on how best to offer additional clarity to the many ways each CCLS can obtain PDUs. Please see the feature article on the domains in which PDUs must be earned. The Conference Program Sub-Committee is considering new ways to help members earn credits in the Assessment Domain to benefit all members as well.

Switzerland - 2
 Taiwan - 4
 United Arab Emirates - 1
 United Kingdom - 6

AK - 9	MS - 190
AL - 83	MT - 3
AR - 28	NC - 212
AZ - 124	ND - 11
CA - 511	NE - 39
CO - 54	NH - 34
CT - 69	NJ - 173
DC - 14	NM - 12
DE - 17	NV - 19
FL - 261	NY - 327
GA - 170	OH - 296
HI - 12	OK - 37
IA - 79	OR - 36
ID - 16	PA - 202
IL - 214	RI - 16
IN - 84	SC - 76
KS - 52	SD - 14
KY - 52	TN - 152
LA - 58	TX - 526
MA - 245	UT - 84
MD - 112	VA - 78
ME - 16	VT - 16
MI - 161	WA - 98
MN - 153	WI - 114
MO - 165	WV - 6

ACLP is made richer by all of these dedicated volunteer efforts! It is appreciated and so exciting to see such great cross-collaboration among committees as we all focus on the needs of the ACLP members!

Please see below for an update on other CLCC activities. We hope you enjoy the CCLS Connection! Please send your feedback to certification@childlife.org.

On behalf of CLCC, I wish you a day full of play and a joyful holiday season!

Until next time,

Nancy Ramhap
 Chairperson
 Child Life Certifying Committee

Important Dates to Remember

December

- 20 - Maintenance fee invoices sent
- 31 - Deadline to apply for reinstatement of inactive certification

January

- 31 - Certification Maintenance Fees due

March

- 10 - Registration deadline for the March exam administration

What's in a Domain? The Exam Content Outline and PDUs

As we all know, effective January 2015, the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) shifted from professional development hours (PDHs) to the use of professional development units (PDUs). Two additional important changes happened at this time: 1) the requirement became 60 PDUs rather than 50 over the 5 years of certification and 2) PDUs must be earned in the three domains of exam content outline. These changes apply to anyone recertifying after 2019.

The CLCC has recognized one of the most challenging aspects of this change is placement of PDUs into the three domains. We are providing additional information on this topic to help our membership become more comfortable with this new expectation. Definitions, examples of key words to look for within each domain, and examples of appropriate PDUs for each domain are provided. It's important to note that some PDU activities will relate to more than one domain. In these instances, the CCLS is required to make a choice about where the activity best fits. Activities may not be divided between multiple domains.

Domain	Minimum Number of PDUs Required
1. Professional Responsibility	15 PDUs
2. Assessment	20 PDUs
3. Intervention	15 PDUs

*10 additional PDUs are required from any domain the CCLS chooses

Domain 1: PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

This domain encompasses several tasks that comprise the daily work of a child life specialist. Remaining competent, ethical, and being part of a professional team are particularly relevant in this domain. Professional responsibility encompasses a large scope in which the specialist acts in a professional manner, avoids ethical conflicts, and advances the field of child life through quality interactions with students, volunteers, and the community in which the specialist works. Fifteen PDUs are required for this domain. Of the 15 required, 5 must be related to professional ethics.

Key words related to the Professional Responsibility Domain:

- Professional relationships
- Multidisciplinary
- Ethics
- Patient and Family Centered Care (PFCC)
- Training (students/volunteers)
- Cultural Fluency

*Note this list is not all encompassing, but a sampling.

Examples of Appropriate Opportunities for PDUS in the Professional Development Domain:

- Webinar: Everyday Ethics: Identifying the Impact of Ethical Decision Making on the Delivery of Compassionate Clinical Care
- Dandelion Webinar: Team: From Development to Sustainability
- A Live Clinical Supervision Group and Facilitation Intensive for Child Life Professionals: Promoting Support and Education through Clinical Supervision
- An Introduction to Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and the Neurobiology of Mindfulness
- Small Voices Say Big Things: Creating and Maintaining Patient Advisory Councils
- Funding a research idea: Writing a grant proposal

Domain 2: ASSESSMENT

The assessment domain is the foundation for direct patient care practice. When providing initial and continuing evaluation and assessment to determine the best possible intervention, child life specialists must ensure they are considering multiple levels of developmental and psychosocial factors. Applying theory into their practice and being aware of current practice models is essential in ensuring a high level of individualized care and for creating effective treatment plans. Assessment includes furthering one skills and knowledge in the ability to gather relevant data, assess coping styles and needs of the family using a variety of strategies, critically think during the process of gathering data, and convert assessment data into a plan of care. Twenty PDUs are required for this domain.

Key words related to the Assessment Domain:

- Assessment
- Applying Theory
- Understanding Needs
- Diagnostic
- Treatment Plan
- Evaluation

*Note this list is not all encompassing, but a sampling.

Examples of Appropriate Opportunities for PDUS in the Assessment Domain:

- Neurobehavioral Assessment of High-Risk Infants in the NICU
- Shifting the Paradigm: Assessment and Intervention in Legacy Building
- Perceptions of Parents in Perceived Poverty and the Role of Child Life
- You're Stressing Me Out! Applying the Family Systems Theory, Family Stress Theory, and ABC-X Model to Daily Child Life Practice
- To Sleep or Not to Sleep? That is the Question: Working with a Pediatric Sedation Team to Successfully Evaluate and Prepare Children to Complete Radiology Imaging without Sedation

Domain 3: INTERVENTION

The intervention domain encompasses professional development activities that enhance knowledge in supporting children, young people, and caregivers during the hospital experience. Providing expert, play-based psychosocial care is the primary task of the intervention domain. The patient and family rely on the child life specialist to be well versed in facilitating individualized care that minimizes anxiety and facilitates coping. To meet a wide range of needs and coping styles, the specialist needs to seek opportunities that expand knowledge of resources and skills in intervention. Fifteen PDUs are required for this domain.

Key words related to the Intervention Domain:

- Preparation (psychological, educational)
- Coping strategies
- Play
- Psychosocial support
- Developmental support
- Advocacy

*Note this list is not all encompassing, but a sampling.

Examples of Appropriate Opportunities for PDUS in the Intervention Domain:

- A Journey through Therapeutic Writing with Teens
- Is Versed Too Much Before Surgery? Implications for the Pre-Operative Use of Distraction
- A Hand to Hold: Supporting a Child with a Traumatic Amputation: Bridging the Gap from Inpatient to Outpatient Care
- How do you Tell a Child a Parent is Dying? Helping the Family Cope with the Unthinkable
- Effective Literacy Promotion for Young Children
- Touch Therapy for Little Kidz with Autism

These definitions, key words, and examples can be used as a tool to help guide your selection and placement of PDUs. For further information about recertifying through PDUs, please review the Recertification Manual. It provides further information on the domains, as well as acceptable methods for obtaining hours and formulas for calculating PDUs. The PDU Recertification Audit Committee is available to address any questions or concerns and can be contacted at audit@lists.childlife.org.

[Back to Top](#)

Certification Exam Update

Exam Administration

The Child Life Professional Certification Examination was administered in August and November with the following results:

	# Candidates	# New CCLSs	% Passing
August 2017	196	182	94.39%
November 2017	125	110	88%

Exam Development

Each year the item development team writes and reviews new exam questions. Our Item Writing and Review Committees started this project for 2017 with online training conducted by our test development agency as well as new, enhanced, child life-specific training. The latter was developed and conducted by seasoned item writers and reviewers who volunteer on the Certifying Committee. Also implemented this year is a coaching program in which experienced item writers are paired with newer writers and provide guidance on writing good items.

The next task for our exam development team is Exam Assembly or Form Construction. This is the process whereby new versions of the exam are built. This process is completed via a series of web conferences facilitated by our testing partner, Schroeder Measurement Technologies (SMT). Committee members receive draft exam forms prior to each session with updates being made in the interim based upon the discussion on the previous call.

Although each item was previously judged to be psychometrically sound, fair, and content-valid, the same review process used in item development is used to give the questions one final review before being presented to candidates.

When reviewing the draft exam forms committee members identify items that are too similar; and those that help answer another question or "cue" one another (known as "bad pairs"). Members also look for over-representation of topics. Some of these items are removed from the draft form and new items are added for under-represented content.

SMT adjusts each form and new drafts are reviewed by the committee on the next call. These steps are repeated as necessary. For each exam form, typically 3 of these sessions will be conducted over a 3-4 week period with each session scheduled for 3-4 hours.

Finally, the forms are returned to SMT's editorial department for review before they are finalized.

[Back to Top](#)

Certification Program Highlights

Certification Maintenance

In April, certification status changed to inactive for 161 individuals due to non-payment of the 2017 certification maintenance fee, and notices of this change in status along with instructions for reinstatement were sent.

Reinstatement applications will be accepted through December 31, 2017. Contact certification@childlife.org for additional information.

Invoices for 2018 Certification maintenance Fees will be emailed mid-December. These will be due by January 31, 2018.

Recertification

Number of CCLSs due to recertify in 2017: 923

Number submitting applications to recertify through PDUs: 789

Number recertifying by exam: 21

Recertification rate: 87.76%

PDU Audit

Approximately 160 applications to recertify through PDUs were randomly audited in 2017 with roughly 40 required for a full audit including documentation submittal.

To uphold and enforce the standards that have been set for child life professional development, a random audit of submitted applications is conducted annually.

It is essential to maintain a complete file of documentation of PDUs in the event your application is selected for the audit process. The auditors review documentation submitted verifying the successful completion of each PDU session and confirm the appropriateness of the sessions' content in relation to the Exam Content Outline.

Audit of PDUs does NOT mean that there is doubt about the honesty or accuracy of a claim. It is merely one part of the process to ensure its integrity.

[Back to Top](#)

[Forward this email](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Association of Child Life Professionals, 1820 N Fort Myer Drive,
Suite 520, Arlington, VA 22209

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by aenright@childlife.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

[Try it free today](#)

