



Continuing Education Self-Assessment: Promoting IBCLC Knowledge and Professional Development

As previously announced, beginning with those due to recertify in 2022, IBCLCs are no longer required to recertify by examination every ten years! **There are now two options for recertification every five-year cycle:**

- 1. Recertification by Examination OR**
- 2. Recertification by CERPs with the Continuing Education (CE) Self-Assessment**

The CE Self-Assessment is designed to encourage self-reflection and to identify competencies and areas on which to focus one's continuing education based upon the current *IBCLC Detailed Content Outline*. The CE Self-Assessment takes a "Blended Approach" to continuing education and professional development, allowing an IBCLC to develop professionally with respect to core knowledge while also allowing flexibility to choose continuing education specific to one's own career path, practice setting or interest areas.

The CE Self-Assessment is a free, remote, computer-based assessment with approximately 70 multiple-choice questions taken to create a Personalised Professional Development Plan.

2022 is the beginning of the transitional period for this new option. **IBCLCs due to recertify in 2022 need to complete only 7 CERPs (10%) of the total 75 CERPs required based on their Personalised Professional Development Plan.** IBCLCs who are due to recertify in 2022 have received access to the CE Self-Assessment in English. [As previously announced](#), the CE Self-Assessment will be available to IBCLCs due to recertify in 2022 in all IBLCE languages by the end of November 2021.

The number of CERPs required based on the results of the CE Self-Assessment will increase to 20 CERPs (30%) in 2023 and 34 CERPs (50%) in 2024 and beyond. More details about when IBCLCs due to recertify in 2023 and beyond will be able to access the CE Self-Assessment will be available soon.

Learn more about the updated recertification process, including the new Continuing Education Self-Assessment, [here](#).

Applications for the March/April 2022 IBCLC Examination Are Open!

Know someone seeking to earn the IBCLC, the gold standard in lactation care? Applications for the March/April 2022 IBCLC examination administration are open now until December 7, 2021.

Application deadline: December 7, 2021

Examination administration: March 23 – April 1, 2022

Apply [in IBLCE's online credential management system](#)

(If you already have an account, please do not create a new account. Please start by resetting your password and then contact your regional location if you need additional assistance).

Please note that the March/April 2022 examination is offered only in English.

Applications for the September 2022 IBCLC examination, available in all IBLCE languages, will open in April.

Looking for a Way to Stay Connected to the IBCLC Community After You Retire? Retired Status is Now Available

The IBCLC Retired status is new as of 2021 and recognises years of previous dedicated service to breastfeeding families as an IBCLC. It also provides a way for retired IBCLCs to stay connected!

Former IBCLCs whose certification has already expired have an opportunity to apply for this new status. This one-time limited exception is now available for those whose certification expired between 2010 and 2020.

For IBCLCs who are currently certified, an application for IBCLC Retired Status must be filed in the year that your certification expires.

Applications are open now until September 30, 2022.

[Learn more about Retired Status here.](#)

IBLCE and the IBCLC: Update on the WHO Code and the IBCLC Credential

As shared in the [July 2021](#) and [August 2020](#) IBLCE Briefings, IBLCE continues to work to update its policies and procedures to strengthen its commitment to the aims of the *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes* (WHO Code) and subsequent World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions, as well as to comport with best certification practices.

Given the unanticipated onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, IBLCE, like many organisations, needed to pivot to adapt its core operations to very different circumstances and provide new information to its stakeholders, such as [interim guidance](#) on the use of technology to meet the clinical hours eligibility requirement.

IBLCE remains committed to these important initiatives and their implementation after a thorough analysis, which is critical given the complexities of a global certification programme.

To date, IBLCE has implemented the following on its “road map”:

- IBCLE Board and staff have completed training on the WHO Code and subsequent resolutions. This education is now part of the onboarding process for new Board members and staff.
- Effective January 1, 2022, IBLCE will not accept any educational credits for certification or recertification from companies whose products fall within the scope of the *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes* (infant formula, bottles, and teats).
 - IBLCE will be requiring CERP Providers to affirm support of the World Health Organization (WHO) *International Code of*

Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent resolutions as part of the 2022 CERP Provider Programme. More detailed information will be sent to CERP Providers soon.

- IBLCE encourages both providers and attendees of educational programmes to consider carefully involvement by entities who are not meeting their obligations pursuant to the WHO Code (e.g., infant formula, bottles, and teats' manufacturers, distributors, and marketers). To help IBCLCs determine whether a programme is compliant with the WHO Code, IBLCE has added several frequently asked questions to the [Certification FAQs](#) and [Recertification FAQs](#) on our website.
- As noted above, IBLCE introduced in October 2021 a Retired Status for active IBCLCs who intend to retire and no longer practise.

IBLCE continues to work on the following important initiatives, with revised implementation timelines:

- Throughout 2022, IBLCE will be engaging in a comprehensive multi-phase review and enhancement of the CERPs Provider Programme. IBLCE recognises the complexities involved within the global lactation education space and is committed to developing guidance for IBCLCs and CERP Providers on compliant education that serves the diverse needs of IBCLCs.
- The [previously announced](#) WHO Code training requirement for initial IBCLC examination candidates and recertifying IBCLCs will have a revised effective date to be announced in 2023.
- The IBLCE Ethics & Discipline Committee will review and revise the *Code of Professional Conduct for IBCLCs* (CPC) to incorporate provisions of the WHO Code within the CPC in consultation with legal counsel in 2022, with a revised effective date to be announced in 2023.

[As announced in April 2021](#), IBLCE has delayed the implementation date of the Inactive Status to replace Lapsed Status to 2022 with further details to be communicated.

IBLCE looks forward to working with its stakeholders on these important enhancements.

IBLCE Leadership Transitions

IBLCE is pleased to announce the election of two vibrant new leaders to the IBLCE Board of Directors! IBLCE warmly welcomes **Brooke Gilliam** and **Emily Walden** to the IBLCE Board.



Brooke Gilliam, BSN, RN, IBCLC

Brooke Gilliam is from Greensboro, North Carolina where she serves her community as a lactation consultant at Moses Cone Hospital, as well as through in-home care with a local midwifery-led private practice. She is the owner and operator of Mother's Finest Birth & Lactation, PLLC and has over 10 years of maternal health nursing experience. Brooke earned her BSN degree from North Carolina Central University, her lactation training through the Mary Rose Tully Training Initiative programme at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is an MSN candidate at Western Governors University. Brooke has a passion for educating and supporting families through a model of breastfeeding that best fits their lifestyles. Her research interests centre on efforts to improve breastfeeding initiation and duration rates among Black women. She also believes that diversifying the field of lactation with competent professionals will positively impact breastfeeding rates while reducing infant mortality and childhood health disparities among babies of colour.



Emily B. Walden MSN/Ed., CNM, C-EFM, IBCLC

Emily Walden has been working alongside women and newborns for over 10 years: first as an RN, then as a Nurse Educator, and now as a rural health CNM in Wisconsin, USA. She quickly aspired to become an IBCLC – with the dream that she could open a lactation clinic for all who needed lactation support – and became an IBCLC in 2018. Emily graduated from the University of Toledo with a Master of Science in Nursing and as Nurse Educator from the University of Toledo. She also holds a Post-Master's Certificate of Nurse Midwifery. Throughout her career, lactation and human milk advocacy was always intertwined into her various roles working in healthcare.

IBLCE also now has a new volunteer leadership team! Pursuant to the IBLCE bylaws, **Annabelle Mackenzie**, MA, IBCLC of Suffolk, UK has transitioned from the Chair-Elect into the role of Chair. The new Chair-Elect is **Mona Sakr**, MBBS, MSc, IBCLC, originally from Egypt and more recently of Ajman, United Arab Emirates and North Carolina, USA. **Marin Skariah**, MSN, FNP-BC, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, IBCLC of Connecticut, USA is now the Immediate Past Chair after a successful, yet challenging, year as Chair during the global pandemic. **Kristi Salisbury**, CDM, CFPP, RD of Minnesota, USA was elected to serve as Treasurer, and **Agnes Wangui Kamau**, BA of

Nairobi, Kenya was elected Senior Board Member. IBLCE thanks each of these individuals for assuming these key leadership roles!

Finally, IBLCE extends its greatest thanks to **Norma Escobar**, IBCLC, RLC, **Kelly Valceanu**, DNP, MA, MSN, CNM, IBCLC, and **Roberto Issler**, MD, IBCLC who recently completed their Board service with IBLCE! IBLCE has appreciated their leadership and wishes them all the best!

For more information on the IBLCE Board, visit the [IBLCE website](#).

Introducing IBLCE's New Central American Coordinator

IBLCE is pleased to welcome the newest IBLCE Coordinator in its global network, **Dr. Ilinichna Lizeth Alzamora Madrid**. Dr. Alzamora will serve as Coordinator for Central America.



Dr. Ilinichna Alzamora's family in Panama inspired her to dedicate her life to the care of children. Her family values led her to become a Paediatrician and Neonatologist. During her career, she became the mother of a baby girl. Like many mothers during that time in her country, she received very little help with breastfeeding.

These challenges encouraged her, as a mother and a physician, to find help for other breastfeeding mothers, children, and families. In 2015, she founded "Mom and Dad's School", the first Panamanian school for parents who want to prepare themselves for breastfeeding. In 2017, she became one of the first few certified IBCLCs in Panama and continues her work serving Panamanian families.

IBCLCs and examination candidates in Central America can contact Dr. Alzamora regarding the IBCLC certification at centralamerica@iblce.org.

If you have questions about becoming an IBCLC or recertifying, you can find a coordinator for your country/region [here](#).

IBLCE Continues Work with

the Global Breastfeeding Collective

IBLCE continues to participate actively in the Global Breastfeeding Collective, the high-profile and influential group led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. The Collective continues its important work of scaling up breastfeeding programmes and policies to increase exclusive breastfeeding rates worldwide.

The Global Breastfeeding Collective plays a number of important roles, including advocating for investment in breastfeeding and galvanizing public support for breastfeeding both with families and at the country level.

Find new tools in the [Collective Breastfeeding Advocacy Toolkit](#), including the recently published [2021 Global Breastfeeding Scorecard](#).

IBCLCs Inducted as Prestigious Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing



The American Academy of Nursing recently inducted former IBLCE Treasurer and Board Member, **Clifton J. Kenon, Jr.**, DNP, MSN, RN, IBCLC, FAAN as a Fellow to the American Academy of Nursing. Academy Fellows, who hail from thirty-eight countries around the globe, are nursing leaders in research, management, and education and include university presidents, chancellors, and deans; elected officials; hospital chief executives and vice presidents for nursing; association leaders; researchers and entrepreneurs.

Fellows of the Academy play pivotal roles in enhancing the quality of health and nursing, reducing health disparities and inequalities and strengthening the nursing and health care system, both nationally and internationally.

IBCLCs **Kimarie Bugg**, DNP, RN, MPH, IBCLC, FAAN, **Ifeyinwa Asiodu**, PhD, RN, IBCLC, FAAN, and **Natalia Villegas Rodriguez**, PhD, MSN, RN, IBCLC, FAAN were also selected.

Congratulations to these IBCLCs and new Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing on this extraordinary honour.

This briefing is being translated and will be disseminated in all examination languages in the immediate future.

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