



Certified Dementia Care Specialist (CDCS) Certification Standards
Application Standards for Practicing Professionals in the United Kingdom

1.0 Professional Standards

1.1 Nationally registered, credentialed or member of the association noted:

- Counsellor, Psychotherapist, or Psychologist
 - Hold a registration as a MBACP, MBACP-Accredited, MBACP-Senior Accredited or higher with the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP)
 - Hold a full clinical membership with the UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP)
 - Be an Accredited Registrant (MNCS), Professional Registrant (MNCS Prof Accred), Senior Accredited Registrant (MNCS Snr Accred) or a Fellow Registrant with the National Counselling Society (NCS)
 - Be an Accredited Member, Senior Member or Fellow with the Accredited Counsellors, Coaches, Psychotherapists and Hypnotherapists (ACCPH)
 - Hold a registration as a Practitioner Psychologist with the Health & Care Professionals Council (HCPC)
 - Hold a Full Membership with the Association of Child Psychotherapists
 - Hold a Registered Counsellor Membership with the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC)
 - Be a COSCA or UK Body Accredited Member of the Counselling & Psychotherapy in Scotland (COCSA)
- Social Worker
 - Hold a registration with the Health & Care Professionals Council (HCPC)
 - Hold a Working or Independent Membership with the British Association of Social Workers (BASW)
- Psychoanalytic and psychodynamic psychotherapists
 - Hold a Full Membership with the British Psychoanalytic Council (BPC)
- Play Therapist
 - Hold a Full Membership with the British Association of Play Therapists
 - Hold a Certification as a Play Therapist, Practitioner in Therapeutic Play Skills, Play and Creative Arts Counsellor or Supervisor of Play and Creative Arts Therapists with the Play Therapy Register
- Mental Health Nurse
 - Hold a Mental Health or Specialist Community Public Health Nurse registration with the Nursing & Midwifery Council
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner
 - Hold an active registration with the Royal College of Nursing
- Medical Doctor
 - Hold a Full, General or Specialist registration with the General Medical Council
- Teacher
 - Hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) with the Teaching Regulation Agency
 - Hold a registration with The General Teaching Council for Scotland
- Occupational Therapist
 - Hold a registration with the Health & Care Professionals Council (HCPC)
- Speech and Language Therapist/Speech Therapist
 - Hold a registration with the Health & Care Professionals Council (HCPC)

For all professions: Provisional or student registration or membership does not meet the standards for Certification. Coaches do not meet the standards for Certification, unless the Coach also holds a certification, registration or membership listed above.

Other applicants: Registered or credentialed professionals whose professional scope of practice allows them to diagnose and provide clinical mental health treatment plans for mental health disorders AND have met the registration or credentialing requirements in the UK are welcome to apply. If you are unsure whether your professional background meets the standards for Certification, please email a copy of your educational background, professional scope of practice, membership or registration and CV to info@evergreencertifications.com

1.2 The applicant must:

- Be in good standing with the State or National Board, Registry or Organization that represents their profession, including not being on probationary status for any reason.
- Not have been ethically or professionally denied application to or renewal of his/her professional membership or registration in local, state or national associations to which he/she is qualified within the past 5 years.
- Not have had his/her professional or medical privileges restricted, revoked, or revised in any formal institutional setting (e.g., hospital, clinic or other clinical setting) based upon professional malpractice within the last 5 years.

2.0 Educational Standards

2.1 The applicant must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 6 CPD hours at a post-graduate level):

- An understanding of dementia types, cognitive differences and prognosis for:
 - Alzheimer's Type Dementia
 - Vascular Type Dementia
 - Lewy Body Dementia
 - Frontotemporal Dementia
 - Parkinson's Dementia
 - Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus
- An understanding of the stages of dementia
- Ability to differentiate between mild cognitive impairment, dementia and normal aging
- Ability to provide a synopsis of the cognitive assessment tools used to identify dementia in early and late stages
- An understanding of behavioral interventions that address:
 - Sun downing, combativeness and aggression
 - Wandering, paranoia, hallucinations and delusions
 - Depression, anxiety and repetitive behaviors
 - Intimacy and sexuality
 - Personal hygiene and ADL's
- Ability to effectively provide psychoeducation to patients, family and/or caregivers
- An understanding of communication strategies that encourage compliance and therapy participation, including non-verbal communication strategies and strategies to avoid arguments
- A general understanding of psychopharmacology and nutrition as it relates to dementia
- An understanding ethical and cultural issues related to dementia, including end of life considerations, abuse reporting and community resources

2.2 Examples of suitable education sources include, but are not limited to:

- Post-Graduate level coursework from an accredited college or university as documented by a copy of the course syllabus and a transcript showing completion of the course
- Approved CPD as documented by certificates of completion from training organization

3.0 Required Documentation for Certification Eligibility

1. A copy of the applicant's professional registration, credential, or membership
2. Copies of completion of training as outline in the Educational Standards
3. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications will certify candidates who meet the above requirements.

Please note: Certification does not imply endorsement of clinical competency. As a professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession's standards.

4.0 Required Documentation for Renewal of Certification

To maintain Certification, a reapplication is required. The steps to apply for a 1-year reapplication are as follows:

1. Submit, via email, a copy of your professional registration, credential, or membership as well as a completion certificate for six (6) CPD hours of post-graduate level, Alzheimer's and/or dementia care-focused training to info@evergreencertifications.com
2. Payment of re-certification application fee

You can also apply for reapplication for 2 or 3 years. Follow the process above, submitting twelve (12) CPD hours of training for a 2-year reapplication, and eighteen (18) CPD hours of training for a 3-year application.

Re-certification training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were last certified or recertified. Renewals are calculated from the date that your Certification was issued. If you allow your Certification to lapse for more than 3 years, you are no longer eligible to renew your Certification and instead can reapply for Certification.