



Certified Disability Management Specialist

CDMS Exam Guide

What you need to know before you take the CDMS
exam

Internet Explorer has known incompatibilities with the functionality of the My CDMS Dashboard site. Please begin your exam application and check the status of your application with current versions of Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox for the best experience.

WELCOME

If you already have been approved to sit for the CDMS® examination, congratulations! Desire for certification demonstrates your commitment to the field of disability management. The Certified Disability Management Specialist (CDMS) certification sets you apart. It confirms you have the highest level of knowledge and skills required to analyze workplace health and safety risk, recommend prevention strategies and alleviate the personal and professional impact of disability. The CDMS is about getting employees back to well, back to work and back to life.

EXAM GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you understand the rules and procedures of the CDMS examination. Read this document carefully before registering and refer to it whenever you have a question about the CDMS examination experience. All appropriate fees are listed in the Fee Schedule at the end of the guide.

Please be sure to add the CDMS email address to your 'safe senders' list: cdmshq@cdms.org

Log into "My Account". Please bookmark this location

LOG IN JOBS CONTACT

CDMS
Certified Disability Management Specialist

Search

About CDMS - Get Certified - Stay Certified - Develop Others - Education -

Why Hire a CDMS or ADMS?
The industry's best career resource for connecting disability management professionals and employers.

LEARN MORE ▶

STUDY MATERIALS

The CDMS examination is practice-based, meaning all items are based around knowledge that an experienced disability management specialist should know and understand.

There isn't any course or education required to take the exam or to prepare for the exam. A listing of suggested [study materials](#) is available on our website, and can assist you in preparing for the examination.

Included in the study materials are:

- » Core Knowledge Curriculum (CKC) & ADMS Designation

- » Practice exams - these exams utilize actual CDMS exam items that are now retired to provide a true exam experience for applicants. An explanation for correct answers is provided for every exam item, to assist in your understanding of the concepts being examined.

The Commission does not endorse or recommend any other study materials, other than what is available through our website.

Please be aware that this listing does not completely delineate the parameters of the examination. It is merely a suggested means for reviewing your personal education and practical experience in the field. This is not required, nor should it be considered all-inclusive.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

CDMS does not discriminate against an individual with respect to age, sex, color, race, religion, national origin, sexual preference, marital status, or disability.

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

The CDMS examination is administered two times a year. Eligibility, once approved, is valid for the first available testing window. If you are unable or do not wish to take the exam in the first available testing window after your application is approved, you may defer to the next exam window and pay the deferral fee (see Fee Schedule).

ARE YOU A U.S. VETERAN OR DEPENDENT?

Veterans, reservists and their dependents who are disability management specialists are eligible for education reimbursement under the [GI bill](#) for the CDMS exam. Further information on deferment and eligibility is included later in this guide.

AUTHORIZATION TO TEST (CANDIDATE ID) NUMBER

CDMS provides candidates who have been approved to test with a number known as the Candidate ID number. This is the number you need to provide to Pearson VUE to allow you to schedule your exam.

Once your application is approved, you will receive an email with your Candidate ID number and instructions to schedule your exam.

Once you register, Pearson VUE will give you a confirmation number. This is the number you need to use to make any changes to your exam appointment with Pearson VUE.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Do you have anything you need to bring into the exam with you?

- » An inhaler?
- » A magnifying glass?
- » Medication?
- » Do you have any special requirements for taking the exam?
- » A room by yourself when you take the exam?
- » Extra time to take the exam?

CDMS and Pearson VUE make every effort to reasonably accommodate candidates with documented special accommodations needs, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If a candidate requires special accommodations, they must indicate this need on the application. This will alert CDMS Client Service Associate, who will contact you regarding your special accommodation request and provide further instructions regarding your exam appointment.

Any candidate who will need a special accommodation(s), will need to submit documentation for the accommodation requests by the end of the application window. All requests are timely in order to accommodate your request and coordinate with the

testing vendor. See the timeline [here](#).

Candidates making a special accommodations request need to provide a letter from a qualified healthcare professional familiar with their case(s). This letter must be on the qualified healthcare professional's letterhead, typed, dated and signed by the healthcare professional.

The letter should include a specific diagnosis, date of diagnosis, description of substantial day-to-day functional limitations resulting from stated disabilities, specific recommendations for testing accommodation(s) including an explanation of why the accommodation is necessary. CDMS accepts responsibility for the costs of any reasonable accommodation granted.

EXAM APPOINTMENT

REGISTRATION

The CDMS examination is administered by Pearson VUE, a worldwide leader in examination and research. CDMS exams are administered at specific times throughout the year in testing centers in the US and worldwide as well as through remote proctoring.

Exam appointment registration can be done online at [https://home.pearsonvue.com/Clients/Commission-for-Case-Manager-Certification-\(CCMC\).aspx](https://home.pearsonvue.com/Clients/Commission-for-Case-Manager-Certification-(CCMC).aspx).

All the information you need to get registered will be emailed to you upon approval of your application.

For assistance accessing "My Account," getting registration information, or completing your exam appointment registration, call CDMS at 844-681-8156 or email us at cdmschq@cdms.org.

To view the Pearson VUE Testing Center Regulations, please click on this link: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/Test-takers/Resources.aspx>

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Once you have scheduled your appointment with Pearson VUE, you will receive a confirmation number. They will also send a confirmation of appointment email to you as long as you have provided them with a valid email address. If you do not receive a confirmation of appointment from Pearson VUE within 48 hours of scheduling an appointment, you should contact CDMS to confirm the registration was processed.

If you do not receive a confirmation notice from Pearson VUE DO NOT assume you are registered. If you do not properly complete the registration process you will not be allowed to sit for the exam and your exam or deferral fee will not be returned to you.

Candidates should make sure to note the correct date and location of their exam appointments in advance. Failure to arrive on the appointed date or the correct test site is not cause for an exam fee or deferral fee refund.

WHEN TO ARRIVE/ CHECK INTO YOUR EXAM

You should arrive/log in 30 minutes before your appointment is scheduled to begin. Please use all available resources to familiarize yourself with the test center location and/or preparing your testing space. If testing at a testing center the directions provided in the Pearson VUE confirmation notice are not guaranteed. If testing remotely, please use the resources available on the [Pearson VUE website](#) to run a system test prior to checking into your exam. If you are late for your exam appointment, you may not be allowed to test and you will not be eligible for a refund. **Remember: refunds will not be given for exams that are missed because a candidate was not able to locate the testing center or arrived late.**

WHAT TO BRING/HAVE WITH YOU THE DAY OF YOUR EXAM

You will need to present a government issued, photo ID that matches your name exactly as it appears in your application to the test center in order to be seated for the exam.

Acceptable IDs include a US state driver's license, a US state identification, a passport or US military ID. The ID must be valid and contain both a signature and recent photograph (within 10 years). All identification must be in English and signed in English. If the valid ID does not provide both a signature and a recent photo, you will be asked to provide additional ID that does.

If you do not have one form of acceptable ID, you will not be able to test. Please see the "Making Changes to Your Exam Appointment" section for details.

You may not have any personal items to the test center or while remotely taking your exam, such as books, paper, calculators, food, beverages, cell phones, watches, tissues, or any medications for which candidate has not obtained special accommodation approval. Car keys, jackets, and all other personal items will be stored in a locker provided on site. If testing at a testing center, you will be given a key to the locker which you will use to retrieve your belongings upon completion of the exam. An erasable white board will be provided by Pearson VUE and must be surrendered upon exiting the exam room.

EXAM DURATION

Your exam appointment is three and a half hours. This includes time to get seated, confirm that you have the right exam on your computer, view the tutorial, and complete an end survey. Time allowed for the actual exam is 3.5. Please remember that while the appointment is four hours, the exam runs for 3.5 hours. **Candidates who do not finish the exam in the allotted 3.5 hours will not be given a refund.**

You may leave the testing room for any reasonable purpose

(such as using the restroom). However, you will need to notify Pearson VUE staff and then sign back in when you return. The exam clock continues to run during breaks, there is no "pause" button on the exam.

CHECKING YOUR ANSWERS

Computer based testing (CBT) provides the opportunity for you to mark specific test items for review later. The tutorial will show you how to mark exam items for review. If you are uncertain of your answer to a specific item(s), mark them for review and look them all over once you have finished the rest of the exam.

Once you are in the "review" screen, clicking the "end" button on the bottom right hand of the screen will cause a window to "pop up" letting you know that this action will end your exam. **Do NOT end your exam if you are not finished with it.**

To exit the review screen and go back to your exam, select the "review all" on the bottom left-hand corner of the review screen. This is important because if you accidentally exit out of the exam, there is no way to get back into it. **Your exam will be terminated.**

ISSUES WHILE TAKING YOUR EXAM

Very rarely do any issues arise at the test center that you might perceive as having a negative effect on your performance. However, CDMS takes these issues very seriously. For us to investigate any problems thoroughly, all issues **must be reported BEFORE LEAVING the test center or ending your online exam and provided a case number.**

Issues can be reported on the exit survey and should be brought to the attention of the Pearson VUE staff during the exam/before leaving the test center and/or ending your online exam. Candidates should also contact CDMS after reporting the issue to Pearson VUE at 844-681-8156.

If you have a claim to report, notify CDMS and the Pearson VUE staff IMMEDIATELY. CDMS and Pearson VUE will investigate all claims which are reported within two weeks of the exam appointment and will reach a decision in a timely manner.

Problems reported after test results have been received will not be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY REVOCATION

If a Pearson VUE staff determines that a candidate's actions during the exam or otherwise at the testing center violate exam procedures, or if it is discovered that eligibility was obtained under false pretenses, eligibility can be revoked and exam results invalidated, in accordance with the agreements confirmed by candidates in the online application.

MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR EXAM APPOINTMENT

RESCHEDULING WITHIN APPROVED EXAM CYCLE

CDMS understands that even the best laid plans may need to change. However, certain guidelines and fees have been put in place to ensure that CDMS and Pearson VUE are able to administer the exam without loss of integrity or disruption of customer service. Once you've scheduled your exam with Pearson VUE, if you need to cancel or reschedule within the cycle for which you have been approved, you may do so as long as:

1. Examination appointments are still available
2. It is at least 48 hours prior to your appointment. Exams cannot be rescheduled less than 48 hours prior to your appointment.

You can only change a scheduled exam appointment within the exam window for which you were initially scheduled.

Appointments cannot be changed within 48 hours of the scheduled time. If an appointment is cancelled less than 48 hours before the appointment, you will be treated as a "No Show" (see "No Shows").

Candidates must cancel/reschedule directly on Pearson VUE's website immediately. You may cancel/reschedule at [https://home.pearsonvue.com/Clients/Commission-for-Case-Manager-Certification-\(CCMC\).aspx](https://home.pearsonvue.com/Clients/Commission-for-Case-Manager-Certification-(CCMC).aspx) Candidates who cancel an exam with Pearson VUE are encouraged to retain the cancellation documentation received from Pearson VUE in the event that substantiation of appointment cancellation is required.

RESCHEDULING TO ANOTHER EXAM CYCLE -- "DEFERMENT"

The CDMS examination is administered two times a year. Eligibility, once approved, is valid for the first available testing window. If you are unable or do not wish to take the exam in the first available testing window after your application is approved, you may defer to the next exam window.

If you wish to defer to the next exam window, you must pay a non-refundable fee (see Fee Schedule).

To make a deferment request, you must first contact Pearson VUE to cancel the original exam appointment (if scheduled) then contact the CDMS Client Service Associate at cdmsq@cdms.org to create the deferment.

Once your deferment has been created, you will need to submit payment online or you can call us at 844-681-8156 to give payment information by phone.

Deferment can be made at any time between the time of initial approval and the week before the last day of the exam cycle for which you were approved. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call us at 844-681-8156.

You must cancel any previously scheduled appointments with Pearson VUE to take advantage of this option.

****PLEASE NOTE: If you do not take the exam in the first available cycle upon approval, and if you fail to schedule a deferment for the following exam cycle, you will need to complete a new application and pay all fees in place at that time**

EXAM RETAKES

If you do not pass the exam the first time you take it, you can retake the exam, pending that you are still within your initial eligibility. The retake **MUST** be scheduled for the next available exam cycle. You can schedule your retake after you have received your exam results email.

If you are unable to retake the exam in the next available cycle, you will need to complete and submit a new application and pay all fees in place at the time.

RETAKE/DEFER PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL

CDMS understands that even the best laid plans may need to change due to extenuating circumstances. However, certain Guidelines have been put in place for this reason. Anyone who is in retake/defer status and cannot test due to an unforeseen circumstance must submit a formal withdrawal request.

The request can be sent to cdmsq@cdms.org no later than the last 9-10 days of the exam window.

With this request you will also need to provide proper documentation of the circumstance.

If you withdraw after you scheduled your appointment and did not properly cancel with Pearson VUE, you are not entitled to a refund.

Once the requested documents have been received by the Customer Service department they will then be reviewed. After review and approval is given you will be refunded the exam fee only.

If you decide you do want to take the CDMS exam at any time in the future, you will need to complete a new application and pay all fees in place at that time.

NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY EXPIRATION

You are allowed one deferment only. If you have already deferred your exam one time, you will not be able to do so again. If you contact CDMS Client Service Associate to request a deferment and are told you are not eligible, you will be asked to complete a new application and pay all fees in place at that time.

PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL

If you choose to withdraw from testing, the exam fee will be refunded. If you withdraw after you scheduled your appointment and did not properly cancel with Pearson VUE, you are not entitled to a refund. If you wish to withdraw and receive a refund, you need to make an official request in writing to cdmshq@cdms.org no later than 10 days before the end of the exam window for which you were initially approved and our Client Service Associate will help you.

Once you've withdrawn, if you decide you do want to take the CDMS exam at any time in the future, you will need to complete a new application and pay all fees in place at that time.

If you do not schedule and take your exam in the first available window for which you are approved, and you do not arrange for a deferment, you will NOT be refunded the exam fee. Exam fees paid but not used are NOT transferable to future exam cycles.

Requests for exam fee refund as a result of permanent withdrawal must be received in writing by CDMS **before** the last day of the exam cycle for which you were approved.

You must cancel any previously scheduled appointments with Pearson VUE in order not to be charged the full test fee. The application fee is nonrefundable.

"NO SHOWS"

If you fail to appear for your scheduled exam, and do not contact Pearson VUE more than 48 hours in advance to cancel, you will be considered permanently withdrawn from the CDMS examination window for which you were originally scheduled. "No Shows" **may** be able to request a one-time deferment **to the next available exam cycle**. If you are a "no show" for your scheduled exam, please contact the CDMS Client Service Associate to see if you are eligible for the one-time reschedule.

If you are eligible for an exam re-take and you do not test (and repay the exam fee) in the next available exam cycle, you will need to re-apply as a new applicant and pay all applicable fees in place at that time.

NAME CHANGES

LEGAL NAME CHANGE

You must provide CDMS with a copy of the legal documents authorizing the change of name. Email, mail or fax documentation to:

Certification for Disability Management Specialists

1120 Rt. 73, Ste. 200

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 Fax:

856-439-0525

Email: cdmshq@cdms.org

PEARSON VUE DATABASE NAME CHANGES

You should have completed the CDMS exam application using your name as it appears on your government-issued, photo ID. If the name on your application does not match the name on the government-issued ID you plan to bring to the test center, you should notify the CDMS Client Service Associate immediately to obtain a name change in the Pearson VUE database.

You will be asked to verify your identity before your name change will be submitted.

If you do not inform the CDMS Client Service Associate of any name differences, you may not be permitted by the Pearson VUE staff to sit for the CDMS exam. If you are turned away from the testing center, you may EITHER:

1. Contact CDMS Client Service Associate during normal business hours (M-F from 8:30 am to 5 pm ET) from the test site so staff can do their best to confirm identity with Pearson VUE staff.

WARNING: WE CANNOT guarantee the confirmation of your identity nor the subsequent ability to test. In this case, you will need to either:

1. Defer to the next available exam cycle if eligible (see "Making Changes to Your Exam Appointment" section for details) and pay the deferment fee (see Fee Schedule).

-OR-

2. Re-apply and pay all fees in place at that time.

EXAM RESULTS

Each candidate who completes the exam is provided with an immediate pass/not pass, which displays on the computer screen. Pearson VUE will email this notification to the address you used to schedule your exam.

This score is 99% accurate and is considered an preliminary pass/no pass notification.

You will be notified by CDMS, of your passed/not-passed status via email and on your account under "My Account" based on the Exam Notification Timeline posted here on our website: <https://www.cdms.org/get-certified/cdms-certification/becoming-certified>

Please read this carefully so you know when to expect notification about your exam score, and when to expect your certificate and pin by mail for those who pass.

Those individuals who pass the exam will be asked to wait until receiving their official CDMS certificate via mail before using the CDMS credential.

To protect your privacy, **score details are not released by telephone or fax.** Upon verification of your identity, you can discuss your exam outcome with CDMS Client Service Associate once scores have already been received by email.

NON-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT/GENERAL TERMS OF USE/EXAM INTEGRITY

This exam is confidential and proprietary. It is made available to you, the examinee, solely for the purpose of assessing your proficiency level in the skill area referenced in the title of this exam. You are expressly prohibited from disclosing, publishing, reproducing, or transmitting this exam, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, verbal or written, electronic or mechanical, for any purpose, without the prior expressed written permission of the Certification for Disability Management Specialists.

Your answer record or items from the examination are not released for review. This policy is necessary to maintain the security of the examination item bank and it is strictly enforced.

FEE SCHEDULE

CDMS FEES

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FEES ARE PAYABLE BY CREDIT CARD ONLY. Personal and/or company checks, money orders, etc., will not be accepted as payment. All fees are non-refundable unless noted otherwise.

Application (NON-REFUNDABLE)	\$225
Exam (This fee will be refunded if you are ineligible to sit for the exam)	\$195
Total Paid with your Application (Application + Exam Fee)	\$420

One-time Deferment	\$85
Re-take	\$195
"No Show" missed exam	No refund of exam fee

PEARSON VUE FEES

Over the phone scheduling fee \$10
This fee is only charged if a candidate must need Pearson VUE's assistance to schedule and exam appointment over the phone.

All candidates are encouraged to schedule via Pearson VUE's online system.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CDMS CLIENT SERVICE ASSOCIATE

Phone: 844-681-8156

Fax: 856-439-0525

Email: cdmshq@cdms.org

PEARSON VUE

Website: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/Clients/Commission-for-Case-Manager-Certification-CCMC.aspx>

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CANDIDATE ID NUMBER

CDMS provides candidates who have been approved to test with a number known as Candidate ID number. This is the number you need to provide to Pearson VUE to allow you to schedule your exam.

EXAM RESCHEDULE

Cancelling or changing an exam appointment that has already been made. Available up to 2 days before the scheduled appointment by rescheduling directly on Pearson VUE's website. Fee applies.

DEFERMENT

One-time reassignment from the first available exam upon eligibility approval to the next available exam. Fee applies.

"MY ACCOUNT"

This is where you applied for the CDMS exam, and this will also provide your application approval and your testing results.

"NO SHOW"

A candidate who does not appear for a scheduled exam and does not contact CDMS or Pearson VUE in advance to reschedule and/or create a deferment, if eligible.

RETAKE

An exam scheduled by a candidate who either does not pass the exam or needs to reschedule, if eligible. Fee applies.