Difference between Licensure, National & Board Certification

Please explain the difference between Licensure-National Certified and Board Certified.

Licensure means that you have the minimal requirements to practice legally within the state. Certification is a higher voluntary credential that therapists earn to show the consumer they aspire to higher standards, promoting wellness and want to strengthen the massage therapy profession. Board Certification is replacing National Certification which will be completely phased out by January 1, 2017.

I moved here from FL 4 months ago & I have complied with applying all requirements to obtain my MA License here in AZ. Can you explain correct procedure to obtain a LMT license coming from another State?

You must check with each state's website for each of their requirements to practice legally within the state.

How will the public be able to distinguish between licensed, National Certification, and Board Certification?

It is up to us as a profession to educate the consumer. We would like to build a career pathway the will help therapists move through a career pathway and eventually receive a higher salary once they become certified. NCBTMB is also looking into specialty certs to help professional earn a higher wage for specializing in a specific modality.

What is the difference between the NCETMB and Board Certification test?

The NCETMB and NCETM have been reduced to licensure tests. These tests contain 125 entry level questions. The Board Certification test is a voluntary test that contains 160 more assessment based questions.

How do I become licensed massage therapist since I'm already certified?

If you’ve already taken the National or Board Certification test, fill out a score report request form found under Complete a Form, within your account and the score report will be sent to your state. You will have to fill out a licensure application and complete the requirements for your state.

Is it true that if you are NCBTMB certified you can obtain a license to practice in another state without having to repeat the testing process?

If you have already passed the National Certification NCBTMB will send your test results to the state you are applying to. 38 states plus DC accept NCBTMB’s test for licensure. Check with your state. If the test is accepted by the state you do not need to take another test.
What is the difference in national and board certification? If board is higher how do I change over without retesting?

Once you recertify you will only have to show that you have to submit the application and completed the requirements of 750 hours of education, 250 hours of professional hands on work experience and pass a criminal background check.

**Is the board certification required to obtain a state license?**

No, the Board Certification is a higher voluntary credential.

I currently live and practice in the state of New York. I was certified with the NCBTMB in August of 2004. I hold licenses in the states of NY, FL and SC. Will this Board Certification be covered in all of these states?

Board Certification is a higher voluntary credential than licensure but you can use the test result as one of the state requirements in FL and SC. NY has its own test.

**How does this test differ from the NCBTMB test of the past?**

The Board Certification test is built around client-therapist scenarios. Questions test massage knowledge of assessment, professionalism, APK and other information.

I graduated 2 years ago I have not taken the national exam. Do I qualify to get the license without taking it?

You must check your state website for licensure requirements

**Please explain the difference between Board Certification and National Certification. I have taken my exams and continue to take classes.**

Once you recertify you will only have to show that you have to submit the application and completed the requirements of 750 hours of education, 250 hours of professional hands on work experience and pass a criminal background check.

I took the nctmb state board exam. Does this mean I am nctmb certified and am I able to use the nctmb credentials?

If you completed all of the requirements to become certified and you are still within the certification timeframe then you are certified. If you only took the test to meet the licensure requirement you may not be certified and may have to take the Board Certification test.
I have been nationally certified thru NCBTMB since 2005. What is the difference between 'licensure', 'National Certification' and 'Board Certification'? How are these certifications honored from state to state?

Licensure means that you have the minimal requirements to practice legally within the state. Certification is a higher voluntary credential that therapists earn to show the consumer they aspire to higher standards, promoting wellness and want to strengthen the massage therapy profession. Board Certification is replacing National Certification which will be completely phased out by January 1, 2017.

I took the NCBTMB test and passed does that allow me licensure or National Board Certification or both? What is Board certified?

It depends on which test you took and when you took it. One of our customer service representatives can look your account up and let you know. Please email info@ncbtmb.org.

What is the difference between nationally & board certified? Why do we need board certification?

Board Certification is replacing National Certification. NCBTMB raised the educational and work experience a small amount with the new credential. Board Certification is a higher credential just as a CPA holds a higher credential than an accountant.

What is the difference between National Certification & Board Certification? How do I become eligible or if I am eligible to be BC? What does it mean to my clients as well as to me?

Board Certification is replacing National Certification. NCBTMB raised the educational and work experience a small amount with the new credential. Board Certification is a higher credential just as a CPA holds a higher credential than an accountant. The requirements are 750 hours of education, 250 hours of hands-on work experience, and pass a criminal background check. Together massage therapists and NCB will be educating the consumer about the higher credential of Board Certification. We would all like to create a tiered profession that will allow more experienced therapists to earn a higher wage than entry level therapists and it begins with certification and then specialty certs.

What is the difference between the exams and how will this affect the students that I have taken the exam? Will they need to send in extra money as they have in the past to become "certified" after passing the exam and graduating?

If someone is currently recertified they only have to meet the 750 hours of education, 250 hours of hands-on work experience, pass the criminal background check and submit the recertification application. No future testing is necessary. If a student has only taken the state licensure test, all of the above requirements will need to be met along with passing the Board Certification exam.

What is the difference between national certification and board certification? What are the benefits of national/board certification if you have a license?
National Certification is the previous credential that is being replaced by Board Certification. Board Certification is a higher credential with stronger requirements. Certification in the medical profession suggests that the person stands for higher standards ethics and has gone above and beyond licensure.

What changes have been made in the board certification that is different from the national certification?

The educational and work experience requirements are higher.

For students still in school, do they need to take both the state licensing exam THEN take another exam to become Board Certified?

Yes, the licensure and Board Certification tests are separate.

Can you be able to reside in a state with a license from a different state?

Please check that states massage therapy board regulations.

I just want to get accurate information so I know what we need to tell our students when we compare and contrast both the NCE and MBLEX exams. We want to give objective but accurate information. Thank you.

NCBTMB’s licensure exam is an entry level exam with 125 entry level questions. When students sign up to take the exam they can receive a $29.98 discount on the online practice exam. The practice exam has over 3000 questions.

I would like an explanation of the difference between licensure, National Certification and Board Certification.

Licensure means that you have the minimal requirements to practice legally within the state. Certification is a higher voluntary credential that therapists earn to show the consumer they aspire to higher standards, promoting wellness and want to strengthen the massage therapy profession. Board Certification is replacing National Certification which will be completely phased out by January 1, 2017.

Why take NCBTMB rather than MBLEX?

NCBTMB’s licensure exam is an entry level exam with 125 entry level questions. When students sign up to take the exam they can receive a $29.98 discount on the online practice exam. The practice exam has over 3000 questions.

Are you phasing out National Certification and if so, by when?

Yes, by January 1, 2017. This credential will be replaced by Board Certification.

I know how hard taking my test was and how expensive it was. I had to pass it on my second go around. Now that it has changed...how do I still qualify my license? Is there any separation between eastern modalities now? I’m quite confused about renewing too.

You do not have to take another exam. You will recertify into Board Certification. Please email info@ncbtmb.org to get information about how to recertify into Board Certification.
If you are certified in your state of residence can you simply recertify nationally by submitting the number of hours required by your state?

No, the only states that call their state credential certification are IN and CA. These are not NCBTMB certifications. If you did not take the NCBTMB certification exam you will have to take and pass the Board Certification exam to become certified into the higher credential. NCBTMB's certification is a higher credential than licensure or state certification.

**What is the difference between National Certification and Board Certification, and what are the qualifications to maintain that certification?**

Board Certification is replacing National Certification. NCBTMB raised the educational and work experience a small amount with the new credential. Board Certification is a higher credential just as a CPA holds a higher credential than an accountant. The requirements are 750 hours of education, 250 hours of hands on work experience and pass a criminal background check. Together massage therapists and NCB will be educating the consumer about the higher credential of Board Certification. We would all like to create a tiered profession that will allow more experienced therapists to earn a higher wage than entry level therapists and it begins with certification and then specialty certs.

**Do you need to be National certified to keep a state certification?**

Please check your state’s massage therapy board regulations.

**Why did they institute this one more label isn’t Nationally Certified enough? I think people that are Nationally Certified & have been practicing Massage for at least 5 years should be grandfathered in. Is this possible?**

Board Certification is replacing National Certification. If you are currently Nationally Certified you will only have to meet the 750 hours of education, 250 hours of hands on work experience and pass a criminal background check to recertify into Board Certification.

**I registered for the exam in December 2012, and passed it in March 2013.**

1) **What exactly is my "certification status"?**

2) **What will I need to renew?**

3) **When do I need to renew?**

Please email info@ncbtmb.org and ask these questions. One of the customer service reps will have to look in your account.

**Are the Certification Exams (NCETM/TMB) Staying or Going after the end of 2013?**

These have been reduced to state licensure exams.
What is the advantage having a National Certification, as opposed to just state certification?

Unless you live in IN or CA you have a state license which means that you have earned a credential that say you have minimal requirements to practice legally in the state. Board Certification is a higher credential.

How does one get Nationally Licensed?

Currently, National Licensure does not exist.

What is the difference between LMT and CMT?

An LMT is a licensed massage therapist. This person has the minimal requirements to practice legally in the state. A Certified Massage Therapists has earned a higher credential and set him/herself apart from entry level therapists.