

## 11. Continuing Pharmacy Education Requirements

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Fifty-three (53) boards of pharmacy require that pharmacists participate in CPE activities as a prerequisite for relicensure. The requirements are fairly uniform regarding the types of programs that are recognized and the prescribed range of acceptable content matter.

**NOTE:** One (1) CEU is equivalent to ten (10) contact hours (1 contact hour = 0.1 CEU).

### Boards Requiring Participation in Continuing Pharmacy Education for Relicensure

#### ALABAMA

By January 1 of each year, every pharmacist must have completed not less than fifteen (15) hours of approved CPE during the preceding year, three (3) hours of which must be live exposure. Carry over of no more than an excess of twelve (12) hours credit is allowed.

#### ALASKA

Each pharmacist seeking renewal of a license shall satisfactorily complete thirty (30) credit hours of CPE biennially offered by ACPE-approved providers during the previous licensure period. Only programs administered by ACPE-approved providers will be accepted by the Board of Pharmacy.

#### ARIZONA

Pharmacists must satisfactorily complete three (3) CEUs biennially of continuing professional education activities sponsored by ACPE- or Board-approved providers. At least 0.3 CEUs shall be pharmacy law subjects. Satisfactory proof of participation should be retained by participants for five (5) years. No carry over of credit is allowed.

#### ARKANSAS

Beginning with the 2002-2003 biennium – for licensure in the 2004-2005 biennium, and in all future two-year periods – the requirements for CPE will be as follows:

1. Thirty (30) hours of CPE each biennium, as approved by the Arkansas Tripartite Committee on Continuing Education.
2. A minimum of twelve (12) CPE hours, of the thirty (30) required hours, must be live contact hours as defined by the committee. The live hours must be concerning drug therapy or patient care.

Continuing competency for certification for Authority to Administer Medications/Immunizations must be maintained. A minimum of one (1) hour of the fifteen (15)-hour requirement for CPE, every year, must be dedicated to this area of practice. Nursing home consultant pharmacists must annually obtain three (3) hours of CE specifically relating to his or her role as a consultant in a nursing home, in addition to the CPE required for all pharmacists.

#### CALIFORNIA

Pharmacists must complete thirty (30) hours of approved CPE every two (2) years. All CPE providers must be ACPE-approved providers or recognized by the AES. Pharmacists may independently petition as well. No carry over of credit is allowed. Coursework that meets the standard of relevance to pharmacy practice and has been approved for CPE by the Medical Board of California, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, the California Board of Registered Nursing, or the Dental Board of California shall, upon satisfactory completion, be considered approved CE for pharmacists.

#### COLORADO

Pharmacists must obtain twenty-four (24) hours of ACPE-approved CPE prior to renewal date of October 31 of odd-numbered years. Up to six (6) hours may be pharmacy-related CME and up to four (4) hours may be obtained by attending regularly scheduled Board meetings.

#### CONNECTICUT

Pharmacists are required to complete fifteen (15) hours of CPE in the previous calendar year (January to December). At least five (5) of those hours must be at a live presentation. Only courses that are ACPE-, CME-, Continuing Nursing Education-, or Commission-approved are accepted. At least one (1) of the fifteen (15) credits must be related to pharmacy law.

#### DELAWARE

Pharmacists must obtain thirty (30) hours of CPE during each biennial renewal period. No carry over of credit is allowed. See specific laws for biological and nuclear pharmacies at [www.dpr.delaware.gov](http://www.dpr.delaware.gov).

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Complete thirty (30) contact hours of credit in approved CPE programs during the two (2)-year period preceding the date the license expires.

#### FLORIDA

Pharmacists must obtain thirty (30) hours of ACPE credit every two (2) years as a condition of relicensure. Ten (10) of those hours must be from an approved live program. Two (2) of those hours must be a Board-approved course on medication errors. A Board-approved one-hour course on AIDS/HIV is required prior to first renewal of licensure. In addition, twenty-four (24) hours of consultant pharmacist coursework is required for biennial renewal of a consultant license. Additionally, twenty-four (24) hours of nuclear pharmacist coursework is required for biennial renewal of nuclear license. No carry over of credit is allowed.

#### GEORGIA

Pharmacists must obtain thirty (30) hours (3 CEUs) of CPE credit every two (2) years as a condition of relicensure. All ACPE-approved providers giving a program in Georgia are required to submit a copy of the Program Description Form to the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy sixty (60) days prior to the date of the program. Non-ACPE-approved providers must apply for and obtain a Georgia State Board of Pharmacy identification number for each program and have a sixty (60)-day prior approval for their programs.

#### GUAM

Each pharmacist seeking renewal of a license shall satisfactorily complete one-and-one-half (1.5) CPE units (15 hours) in an approved CPE program or programs approved by the Board, unless he or she has passed an examination given by the Board. CPE programs attended by Guam-licensed pharmacists for purposes of satisfying licensure requirements of another state must be approved by the Guam Board of Examiners for Pharmacy in order to be recognized for purposes of renewal of Guam license.

#### HAWAII

Prior to renewing their pharmacist license, the pharmacist must have completed at least 30 hours of CE in the prior biennium, which consists of courses approved by ACPE or CME that serve to improve patient safety and to maintain quality national standards in the prevention of medical errors. After January 1 of the renewal period, the Board of Pharmacy conducts a random audit and pharmacists selected must submit proof of satisfying the

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CE requirement. (A licensee who graduated from an accredited pharmacy school within one year of the licensee's first renewal period shall not be subject to the CE requirement for the first license renewal.)

### IDAHO

**134. Amount of Continuing Education.** The equivalent of one-and-one-half (1.5) CEUs shall be required annually of each applicant for renewal of license. One (1) CEU is the equivalent of ten (10) clock hours of participation in programs approved by the Board of Pharmacy. (07-01-93)

**01. ACPE, CME.** At a minimum, eight (8) clock hours (0.8 CEU) will be all or a combination of ACPE- or CME-approved programs. (12-07-94)

**02. Pharmacy law.** One (1) clock hour (0.1 CEU) must be Board of Pharmacy-approved jurisprudence (pharmacy law) programs. (07-01-93)

**03. Non-ACPE.** A maximum of six (6) clock hours (0.6 CEU) may be non-ACPE approved programs. (12-07-94)

**04. Live attendance.** Three (3) clock hours (0.3 CEU) of the required one-and-one-half (1.5) CEUs must be obtained by attendance at live continuing education programs. (07-01-97)

### ILLINOIS

Pharmacists must obtain thirty (30) hours (3 CEUs) of CPE from ACPE-approved providers during the 24 months preceding the expiration date of the 24 months.

### INDIANA

Pharmacists are required to complete thirty (30) hours of approved CE every two (2) years. No more than six (6) hours of business- or computer-related CPE is accepted. No carry over of credit is allowed. At least half of total hours must be ACPE-approved; any other hours must be approved by the Board.

### IOWA

Requires thirty (30) hours (3 CEUs) of approved CPE every two (2) years as a condition for license renewal. No carry over of credit is allowed. Fifty percent of CE must be in drug therapy-related coursework from an ACPE-approved provider.

### KANSAS

Requires thirty (30) hours (3 CEUs) of approved CPE for biennial registration. No carry-over of credit is allowed.

### KENTUCKY

Each licensee is required to complete a minimum of fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) annually in accredited programs. One (1) hour must be earned from a Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources-approved HIV/AIDS program every ten (10) years during the decennial year. Non-ACPE-approved programs must contain the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy identification number. Non-ACPE-approved courses given out-of-state are not reviewed for credit. Credit must be obtained between January 1 and December 31 each year. No carry-over credit is permitted.

### LOUISIANA

Fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) of CPE from ACPE-approved providers must be completed annually as a prerequisite for relicensure. No carry over of credit is allowed. Effective June 20, 2007: Of the fifteen (15) hours, at least three (3) hours must be via live presentation, as designated by ACPE. In the alternative, if choose no live CPE, then earn an additional five (5) hours by other means for a total of twenty (20) hours.

### MAINE

Pharmacists must submit satisfactory proof of participation in not less than fifteen (15) hours of approved programs of CPE during

the calendar year. Credit must be obtained between January 1 and December 31 each year. No carry over of credit is allowed.

### MARYLAND

To qualify for biennial license renewal, pharmacists must have accumulated thirty (30) hours of CPE credit in approved programs by the last day of their birth month prior to obtaining licensure renewal. No carry over of credit is allowed. The Board, at its discretion, may grant an extension, but a pharmacist may not practice pharmacy until requirements are met.

### MASSACHUSETTS

Pharmacists must complete fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) of CPE every year (thirty [30] hours [3.0 CEUs] per two [2]-year renewal period). No carry over of credit is allowed from year to year. Of the fifteen (15) hours required per year, at least two (2) hours shall be in the area of pharmacy law and not more than ten (10) hours shall be credited through correspondence courses. A pharmacist may not earn more than eight (8) hours of CPE in a calendar day

### MICHIGAN

To qualify for biennial license renewal, pharmacists must have accumulated thirty (30) hours of CPE credit in approved programs. No carry over of credit is allowed. Ten hours face-to-face or live programs.

### MINNESOTA

Requires at least thirty (30) hours of credit from accredited CPE programs every two (2) years. Carry over and splitting of program hours are not allowed.

### MISSISSIPPI

Pharmacists are required to submit to the Board of Pharmacy evidence of completion of ten (10) hours (1 CEU) in approved programs every one (1) year. No carry over of credit is allowed.

### MISSOURI

Pharmacists are required to obtain thirty (30) hours (3 CEUs) of continuing pharmacy education for biennial license renewal. No carry over of credit is allowed. An audit of randomly selected renewed licenses is conducted. CE must be earned between September 1 and August 31.

### MONTANA

Pharmacists are required to participate in fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) of ACPE-, CME-, or Board-approved programs each year following the first license renewal. A minimum of five (5) hours (0.5 CEUs) is to be obtained in ACPE-, CME-, or Board-approved group (ie, live) programs. One (1)-year carry over of credit is allowed.

### NEBRASKA

Every two (2) years, pharmacists will be required to complete thirty (30) hours (3 CEUs) of CPE that meet ACPE criteria for quality. Each pharmacist is responsible for keeping his or her own records. No carry over of credit is permitted.

### NEVADA

Pharmacists must submit proof, if audited, of receiving thirty (30) hours of CPE within the two (2) years preceding the current renewal period. In-state registrants must have at least fifteen (15) hours in accredited programs, including one (1) hour in a Nevada jurisprudence program. The one (1) hour of Nevada jurisprudence must either be (a) approved by the Board, (b) provided by the Board, or (c) earned by attending one (1) full day of a Board meeting. Attending one full day of a Board meeting will provide three (3) hours of accredited CPE in addition to one hour of Nevada

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jurisprudence. Out-of-state registrants may submit thirty (30) hours of acceptable CPE. Carry over of credits is not allowed.

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Requires fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) for annual relicensure. A minimum of five (5) hours (0.5 CEUs) must be didactic (live presentation) hours. No carry over of credit is allowed. Programs must be from ACPE-approved providers **or** approved by any board of pharmacy **or** CME Category I-accredited.

### **NEW JERSEY**

Effective April 11, 1995, legislation was enacted that transfers authority for CPE to the Board of Pharmacy. Chapter 79, C. 45:14-11.11. CE required of pharmacists. 1. The Board of Pharmacy of the State of New Jersey shall require each person registered as a pharmacist, as a condition for biennial certification pursuant to R.S. 45:14-11 and P.L. 1972, c. 108 (C.45:1-7), to complete thirty (30) credits of continuing pharmacy education and submit proof thereof, as provided in section 2 of this act, during each biennial registration period. C.45:14-11.12. Standards for CE. 2. a. The Board shall: (1) Establish standards for continuing pharmacy education, including the subject matter and content of courses of study, the selection of instructors, and the type of CE credits required of a registered pharmacist as a condition for biennial certification; (2) Approve educational programs offering credit towards the continuing pharmacy education requirements; and (3) Approve other equivalent educational programs, including, but not limited to, home study courses, and shall establish procedures for the issuance of credit upon satisfactory proof of the completion of these programs. b. In the case of education courses and programs, each hour of instruction shall be equivalent to one (1) credit.

Effective May 1, 1995, the Board voted to automatically accept ACPE-approved CPE credits. Programs presented by non-ACPE providers must apply to the Board for approval of these presentations for accreditation. There is a \$50 fee for this review. Individuals attending non-ACPE programs who wish to receive CPE credit can have these programs reviewed for a \$10 fee. Non-ACPE courses must be issued a New Jersey number to be acceptable for CPE credit.

### **NEW MEXICO**

Pharmacists are required to submit evidence of thirty (30) hours (3 CEUs) of CPE offered by ACPE-approved providers to renew their biennial registration. Two (2) hours must be in the area of pharmacy law. Resident pharmacists must attend a program presented by the inspection staff **or** take a one hundred (100)-question examination and receive a score of 80% or better. The examination costs \$100. Nonresident pharmacists may take an ACPE-accredited law course.

### **NEW YORK**

During each triennial registration period, pharmacists must complete a minimum of forty-five (45) hours of acceptable formal CPE with no more than twenty-two (22) hours consisting of self-study courses. Every pharmacist is required to complete three (3) of the forty-five (45) hours in the area of strategies used to reduce medication errors.

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Requires fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) of CPE per year, with no more than seven (7) hours (0.7 CEUs) of noncontact (ie, correspondence/home-study) program credit.

### **NORTH DAKOTA**

Requires thirty (30) hours (3 CEUs) of CPE offered by ACPE-approved providers every two (2) years for license renewal. One (1)-year carry over of credit is allowed.

### **OHIO**

Requires that evidence of 6 CEUs of CPE offered by approved providers be submitted at intervals of three (3) years. 0.3 CEUs must be in Board-approved jurisprudence. No carry over of credit is allowed.

### **OKLAHOMA**

Relicensure or licensure by reciprocity requires satisfactory proof of not less than fifteen (15) clock hours of participation in accredited CPE programs per year. Carry over of credit is not allowed. Recommend three (3) hours of live format CPE.

### **OREGON**

Each year pharmacists must satisfactorily complete fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) in approved CPE programs. Eleven (11) of the fifteen (15) hours must be in therapeutics; one (1) hour must be in law; and a one-time seven (7) hour pain management CPE. No carry over of credit is allowed. Within 24 hours of first license renewal there is a one-time requirement to complete one (1) hour pain management course provided by the Pain Management Commission of the Oregon Department of Human Services; and six (6) hours of CE in pain management.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

The Board will renew the license of a pharmacist who has completed a minimum of thirty (30) contact hours (3 CEUs) of CPE during the preceding biennial renewal period. For licensees with authority to administer injectable medications, biologicals, and immunizations in accordance with section 9.2 of the act (63 PS §390-9.2) and §27.301 (relating to qualifications for authority), at least two (2) of the required thirty (30) hours shall concern the administration of injectable medications, biologicals, and immunizations, including disease epidemiology, vaccine characteristics, injection technique, emergency response to adverse events, and related topics. Programs offered by providers accredited by ACPE are approved by the Board.

### **PUERTO RICO**

Pharmacists must complete thirty-five (35) hours (3.5 CEUs) of CPE for recertification every three (3) years. No more than fifteen (15) hours may be obtained through professional journals, research, or CPE presentations. Three (3) hours on infection control and three (3) hours on breast-feeding are required.

### **RHODE ISLAND**

Pharmacists must complete fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) of CPE offered by approved providers. Five (5) hours of credit must be obtained through participation in live programs. No carry over of credit is allowed.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Pharmacists must complete fifteen (15) hours of ACPE-approved CPE or CME Category I to be eligible for active license renewal. At least six (6) hours of the total must be from live presentations. At least seven-and-a-half (7.5) hours must be concerning drug therapy or patient management. Excess credits may be carried forward one (1) calendar year.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Pharmacists must provide evidence of completion of twelve (12) hours of CPE in approved programs in order to be eligible for annual relicensure.

### **TENNESSEE**

Pharmacists must complete thirty (30) hours of CPE every two (2) years for license renewal. No carry over of credit is allowed. At least twenty-four (24) hours must be ACPE-approved, and fifteen

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(15) hours must be obtained through ACPE-designated “live” contact programming.

### TEXAS

Pharmacists must complete and report thirty (30) hours of approved CPE during a two-year license period.

### UTAH

Pharmacists shall complete thirty (30) hours of CPE approved by the division and the Board every two (2) calendar years. A minimum of twelve (12) hours must be obtained through attendance at approved lectures, seminars, or workshops; a minimum of fifteen (15) hours must be in drug therapy or patient management; and one (1) hour in law and ethics. CPE hours for licensees who have not been licensed for the entire year will be prorated from the date of licensure at a rate of one (1) hour for each month of licensure. No CPE hours may be accrued as excess and carried forward to the succeeding reporting period. An approved provider is an individual, institution, organization, association, corporation, or agency that has been approved by ACPE and regional meetings sponsored by the Utah Pharmaceutical Association.

### VERMONT

The licensee must complete at least fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs), of which at least 0.5 CEUs shall be obtained during participation in a didactic session, for each full year since the date that the applicant’s latest license was issued; for a total of 3 CEUs per renewal period.

### VIRGINIA

§54.1-3314.1. **Continuing education requirements; exemptions; extensions; procedures; out-of-state licensees; nonpractice licenses.**

**A.** Each pharmacist shall have obtained a minimum of 15 continuing education hours of pharmaceutical education through an approved continuing pharmaceutical education program during the year immediately preceding his license renewal date. **B.** An approved continuing pharmaceutical education program shall be any program approved by the Board. **C.** Pharmacists who have been initially licensed by the Board during the one year preceding the license renewal date shall not be required to comply with the requirement on the first license renewal date that would immediately follow. **D.** The Board may grant an exemption from the continuing education requirement if the pharmacist presents evidence that failure to comply was due to circumstances beyond the control of the pharmacist. **E.** Upon the written request of a pharmacist, the Board may grant an extension of one year in order for a pharmacist to fulfill the continuing education requirements for the period of time in question. Such extension shall not relieve the pharmacist of complying with the continuing education

requirement for the current period. **F.** The pharmacist shall attest to the fact that he has completed the continuing education requirements as specified by the Board. **G.** The following shall apply to the requirements for continuing pharmaceutical education: (1) The provider of an approved continuing education program shall issue to each pharmacist who has successfully completed a program certification that the pharmacist has completed a specified number of hours. (2) The certificates so issued to the pharmacist shall be maintained by the pharmacist for a period of two years following the renewal of his license. (3) The pharmacist shall provide the Board, upon request, with certification of completion of continuing education programs in a manner to be determined by the Board. **H.** Pharmacists who are also licensed in other states and who have obtained a minimum of fifteen hours of approved continuing education requirements of such other states need not obtain additional hours. **I.** The Board shall provide for an inactive status for those pharmacists who do not wish to practice in Virginia. The Board shall require upon request for change from inactive to active status proof of continuing education hours as specified in regulations. No person shall practice in Virginia unless he holds a current active license. **J.** As part of the annual 15-hour requirement, the Board may require up to two hours of continuing education in a specific subject area. If the Board designates a subject area for continuing education, it shall publish such requirement no later than January 1 of the calendar year for which the specific continuing education is required.

### WASHINGTON

Pharmacists are required to complete fifteen (15) hours (1.5 CEUs) of professional CPE as a prerequisite for annual license renewal. No carry over of credit is allowed.

### WEST VIRGINIA

Two (2)-year reporting period – thirty (30) hours required. Two (2) hours in end-of-life care (required only during the first two (2) years of licensure) including pain management required every two years. Six (6) hours of live CPE required every two (2) years.

### WISCONSIN

Effective with the June 1, 2000 renewal, pharmacists are required to complete thirty (30) hours of CE every two (2) years to renew their licenses.

### WYOMING

Each pharmacist must complete a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours (1.2 CEUs) of accredited CPE each year. Those who have been inactive must demonstrate completion of back-CPE for a maximum of five (5) years prior to reactivation.

## ***NABPLAW Online Search Terms***

### **Continuing Pharmacy Education Requirements** *(type as indicated below)*

- ◆ continuing & education & requirements
- ◆ continuing & education & hours
- ◆ continuing & education & renewal & required

**For additional information regarding specific requirements, contact the appropriate board of pharmacy.**

**For additional information about the ACPE Provider Approval Program, contact:**

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, 20 N Clark St, Suite 2500, Chicago, IL 60602; 312/664-3575.