



ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

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TO: ACPE-accredited Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) Providers

CC: ACPE constituents (e.g. pharmacy organizations, state boards of pharmacy, colleges and schools of pharmacy)

FROM: Dimitra V. Travlos, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Executive Director and Director, CE Provider Accreditation Program

RE: ACPE Definition of Continuing Education for the Profession of Pharmacy

At its October 2006 Board of Director's Meeting, ACPE approved a revised *Definition of Continuing Education for the Profession of Pharmacy*. This definition better describes the quality of continuing pharmacy education required by ACPE and will assist providers of CPE in planning activities that will be applicable to the professional development of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

Changes from the 2003 ACPE Definition of Continuing Education for the Profession of Pharmacy are as follows:

1. Inclusion of:
 - a. Institute of Medicine's five core areas all health care professionals should develop and maintain proficiency;
 - b. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's (AACP) Center for the Advancement of Pharmaceutical Education (CAPE) contemporary educational outcomes needed to prepare pharmacists for their evolving role in meeting patient and public health needs;
 - c. National Association of Boards of Pharmacy redefined Blueprint for the pharmacist licensing exam;
 - d. Future Vision of Pharmacy Practice by the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP, executive directors of eleven professional pharmacy organizations).
2. Differentiation of CPE activities designed for pharmacists from CPE activities designed for pharmacy technicians that includes:
 - a. Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's Practice Analysis of pharmacy technicians.
 - b. A "P" designation in the Universal Program Number that is assigned to each CE activity targeted for pharmacists. Specific performance objectives for each CE activity targeted for pharmacists.
 - c. A "T" designation in the Universal Program Number that is assigned to each CE activity targeted for pharmacy technicians. Specific performance objectives for each CE activity targeted for pharmacy technicians.
3. Addition of a topic designator Patient Safety (05)

Implementation Timeline:

This definition will be implemented August 1, 2007. A transition period will occur August 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. Providers will be first evaluated by this definition and its contents beginning January 1, 2008.

Summary of the Revision Process:

The draft of the revised *ACPE Definition of Continuing Education for the Profession of Pharmacy* was distributed profession-wide for comment during the period October 11, 2005 to December 8, 2005. The definition was also presented and discussed at ACPE's 11th Conference on Continuing Education in Chicago, NABP's Fall Education Meeting in Miami, and the ASHP Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas. Fifty written responses were also received directly to the ACPE office.

The original timeline indicated that the comments would be reviewed, discussed, and a new *Definition* would be approved by the Board of Directors at the January 2006 Board meeting. However, due to the number of varied concerns, ACPE reviewed and discussed the comments with its CE Provider Advisory Committee and its stakeholders from January to September 2006. ACPE, along with input from NABP and PTCB, drafted a second version. This version was presented and approved by the ACPE Board of Directors at its Strategic Planning Meeting October 2006.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the documents or what constitutes CE activities conducted by ACPE-accredited providers for pharmacists and/or pharmacy technicians, please contact the ACPE staff.

Attached:

1. Definition of Continuing Education for the Profession of Pharmacy
2. Guidelines Associated with the ACPE Definition of Continuing Education