



Continuing Pharmacy Education Provider e-Update November 2020

Dear ACPE-accredited providers and Joint Accredited for Interprofessional Continuing Education providers:

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) continues to monitor the educational and regulatory issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and important public protection responses thereto. ACPE sends out its best wishes to those affected by this pandemic and the first responders and healthcare teams dedicating countless hours to public safety.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recently issued its guidance on ordering and administering the COVID-19 vaccines when they become available. As ACPE is specifically referenced in the guidance, the November 2020 e-Update is dedicated to the language of the guidance and ACPE's application of the requirements.

ACPE encourages Accredited Continuing Education Providers to understand and adhere to the HHS guidance and provide the required content of CE educational programs to allow for expanded access of eligible pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns relating to the ordering and administration of the anticipated COVID-19 vaccines. In this e-Update, ACPE is providing specifications for education and training.

Initial Qualifications for Pharmacist:

HHS Guidance: "The licensed pharmacist must complete an ACPE-accredited practical training program of at least 20 hours. This training program must include hands-on injection technique, clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines, and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines."

ACPE application of HHS Guidance: In order for the CE activity to meet these requirements, ACPE-accredited providers and Joint Accredited providers must input this CE activity/activities in ACPE's Provider Web Tool (PWT) or Joint Accreditation Program Activity Recording System (JAPARS) as:

- This training **MUST** be classified as an APPLICATION-based or a CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
 - Application-based CPE activities are primarily constructed to **apply** the information learned in the time frame allotted. The information must be based on evidence as accepted in the literature by the health care professions.
 - Certificate Programs in Pharmacy are primarily constructed to **instill, expand, or enhance practice competencies** through the systematic achievement of specified knowledge, skills, attitudes, and performance behaviors. The information must be based on evidence as accepted in the literature by the

health care professions. The formats of these CPE activities should include a didactic component (live and/or home study) and a practice experience component (designed to evaluate the skill or application). The provider should employ an instructional design that is rationally sequenced, curricular based, and supportive of achievement of the stated professional competencies.

- The targeted audience of the activity must be for pharmacists, 'P'- designated.
- Activities must be indicated as topic designator '06'.
 - Topic designator 06 includes Immunizations - activities related to the provision of immunizations, i.e., recommend immunization schedules, administration procedures, proper storage and disposal, and record keeping. This also includes review for appropriateness or contraindication and identifying and reporting adverse drug events and providing necessary first aid.

HHS Guidance: "The licensed pharmacist must have a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)."

ACPE application of HHS Guidance: The required basic CPR course does not have to be from an ACPE-accredited provider. However, if a provider offers this course, ACPE-accredited providers and Joint Accredited providers must input this CE activity/activities in ACPE's PWT or JAPARS) as:

- Basic CPR courses may be KNOWLEDGE or APPLICATION-based.
- The provider must include Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) as part of the title of the CE activity and/or as a keyword.
- Topic designator should be '01' that includes: Disease State Management/Drug Therapy - activities that address drugs, drug therapy, and/or disease states.

Initial Qualifications for Pharmacy Technician or State-authorized pharmacy intern:

HHS Guidance: "The qualified pharmacy technician or State-authorized pharmacy intern must complete a practical training program that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). This training program must include hands-on injection technique and the recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines."

ACPE application of HHS Guidance: In order for the CE activity to meet these requirements, ACPE-accredited providers and Joint Accredited providers must input this CE activity/activities in ACPE's PWT or JAPARS as:

- This training MUST be classified as an APPLICATION-based or a CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.
- The targeted audience of the activity must be for pharmacy technicians, 'T'- designated.
- Activities must be indicated as topic designator '06'.

HHS Guidance: "The qualified pharmacy technician or State-authorized pharmacy intern must have a current certificate in basic CPR."

ACPE application of HHS Guidance: The required basic CPR course does not have to be from an ACPE-accredited provider. However, if a provider offers this course, ACPE-accredited providers and Joint Accredited providers must input this CE activity/activities in ACPE's PWT or JAPARS as:

- Basic CPR courses may be KNOWLEDGE or APPLICATION-based.
- The provider must include Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) as part of the title of the CE activity and/or as a keyword.
- Topic designator should be '01' that includes: Disease State Management/Drug Therapy - activities that address drugs, drug therapy, and/or disease states.

Maintain Qualifications to be Qualified Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technician:

HHS Guidance: "The licensed pharmacist and pharmacy technician must complete a minimum of two hours of ACPE-accredited, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education during each state licensing period."

ACPE Application of HHS Guidance: This requirement may be met by taking one 2-hour CE activity or it may be various time increments totaling 2 hours. The pharmacist and pharmacy technician must take a minimum of 2 hours of credit. In order for the CE activity to meet these requirements, ACPE-accredited providers and Joint Accredited providers must input this CE activity/activities in ACPE's PWT or JAPARS as:

- This training MUST be classified as KNOWLEDGE or APPLICATION-based.
- This CE activity may be home-study or live.
- The targeted audience of the activity must be 'P' for pharmacists.
- The targeted audience of the activity must be 'T' for pharmacy technicians.
- Activities must be indicated as topic designator '06'.

Awarding CE Credit

ACPE-accredited Providers are required to submit activity completion and participant information online via CPE Monitor®. CPE Monitor®, the collaborative service from the ACPE and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), allows CPE Providers to authenticate, store, and streamline data reporting and compliance verification for participating boards of pharmacy. The CPE tracking system creates a direct link for sending CPE data from ACPE-accredited providers to ACPE and then to NABP, ensuring that all reported CPE units are officially verified by ACPE-accredited providers. ACPE credit awarded to U.S. licensed pharmacists and pharmacy technicians should be uploaded to CPE Monitor®.

Team-based Education

ACPE- and Joint-Accredited Providers are strongly encouraged to provide the education to pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians in order to address the need during this public-health crisis. Accredited providers may provide education to the specific professions, as well as, team-based education. For example, providers may provide education to the pharmacist, technician, and intern and educate them as a team regarding the requirements, policies, and procedures of this guidance. Providers are also encouraged to expand the team to include health professionals that may enhance the efficiencies to achieve positive outcomes.

Thank You and Questions

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE for understanding the sense of urgency during this pandemic. ACPE will be posting on the website messaging directed to pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and technicians as well as an ongoing list of CE activities that are available to them to address the needed requirements to administer vaccinations.

ACPE Accredited Providers of Continuing Education are encouraged to review and, where necessary, seek legal advice as to compliance with and representation to attendees of meeting the HHS guidance. Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, and Pharmacy Interns are encouraged to review and, where necessary, seek regulatory advice as to compliance with the HHS guidance.

Please link to the HHS guidance document for additional details.

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prep-act-guidance.pdf>

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/licensed-pharmacists-and-pharmacy-interns-regarding-covid-19-vaccines-immunity.pdf>

If you have any questions or are in need of additional information, please feel free to contact ACPE staff at 312-664-3575 or email ceinfo@acpe-accredit.org.