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THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN PHARMACY **PHARMACIST CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

POLICY No. 2015-02: Guidelines for Pharmacist Continuing Education Requirements

I. General Guidance for Continuing Education Compliance for all Licensed Pharmacists

- A total of 20 contact hours must be completed by December 31 of each calendar year.
- A maximum of 8 contact hours per day may be completed.
- At least 5 contact hours must be “live”.
- At least 2 contact hours must be in the area of pharmacy law (does not need to be “live”).
- The Board accepts 3 types of credit: ACPE, CME Category 1 and Board approved programs. Since only ACPE credits are reported to CPE Monitor, certificates of completion must be retained for the other approved program types.
- Pharmacists must retain documentation of completed continuing education hours in accordance with 247 CMR 4.06.
- All pharmacists, including non-resident pharmacists practicing in other states, **MUST** complete the immunization, CDTM, compounding and other CE requirements if they oversee or engage in these practices, as applicable. See below for details on these specific practices.

II. Continuing Education for Pharmacists Who Have Recently Reciprocated

- Pharmacists who have obtained their Massachusetts license via reciprocity on or after October 1 of the calendar year will be granted a grace period through April 30 of the next calendar year to obtain all required contact hours for the previous year.

III. Immunization Continuing Education Requirement

- Beginning January 1, 2017, any pharmacist licensed by the commonwealth **MUST** complete 1 contact hour of continuing education every 2 years in the area of immunizations if he/she engages in or oversees immunizing activities.

Adopted: 5/5/15
Revised: 3/2/17

IV. Collaborative Practice Agreement Continuing Education Requirement

- For each year of the agreement, pharmacists **MUST** complete at least 5 **additional** contact hours (e.g. total of 25 contact hours yearly) that address areas of practice generally related to the specific collaborative practice agreement.

Note: CDTM pharmacists with prescriptive authority are also required to obtain pain management training. See link for details:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/quality/boards/pharmacy/advisories/cdtm-training-advisory.pdf>

V. Sterile Compounding Continuing Education Requirement

A pharmacist licensed by the Commonwealth **MUST** complete 5 contact hours of continuing education in the area of sterile compounding if he/she:

- Oversees sterile compounding or is directly engaged in the practice of sterile compounding in a retail pharmacy;
- Oversees sterile compounding or is directly engaged in the practice of sterile compounding in an institution;
- Oversees or supervises sterile compounding activities performed by other qualified compounding personnel;
- Verifies the preparation of sterile compounded products;
- Practices sterile compounding;
- Verifies patient medication orders that may require sterile compounding; or
- Engages in or oversees sterile compounding at any point during the renewal period (i.e. at any point, for any length of time even if temporary).

VI. Complex Non-Sterile Compounding Continuing Education Requirement

A pharmacist licensed by the Commonwealth **MUST** complete 3 contact hours of continuing education in the area of complex non-sterile compounding if he/she:

- Oversees complex non-sterile compounding or is directly engaged in the practice of complex non-sterile compounding;
- Oversees or supervises complex non-sterile compounding activities performed by other qualified compounding personnel;
- Verifies the preparation of complex non-sterile compounded products;
- Practices complex non-sterile compounding;
- Verifies patient medication orders that may require complex non-sterile compounding; or
- Engages in or oversees complex non-sterile compounding at any point during the renewal period (i.e. at any point, for any length of time even if temporary).

Adopted: 5/5/15

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VI. Further Guidance for Compounding Continuing Education Compliance

- The 5 sterile or 3 complex non-sterile compounding CE hours may count towards the 20 CE hours required each calendar year and may be completed as home study or in live format.
- Acceptable programs shall refer to the type of compounding covered in the title of the program / course, and must also note learning objectives related to sterile and / or complex non-sterile compounding.
- Continuing education programs that cover the regulatory component of compounding are acceptable to fulfill the requirement of both compounding and law CE credits as long as the regulatory component is approved by ACPE or the Board as a “law” CE program and the compounding component meets the acceptable program criteria set forth above.