



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
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Board of Registration in Pharmacy

Policy 2020-10: Pharmacist Continuing Education (CE) Requirements

I. General Compliance Information 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 any pharmacy Board approved programs. If the CME Category 1 and / or Board approved program credits are not added to CPE Monitor, certificates of completion must be retained.
- 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 Newly Licensed or Recently Reciprocated Pharmacists

Pharmacists who have obtained their Massachusetts license via exam or 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.

Note: CE credits are not required for the calendar year of graduation from an approved college / school of pharmacy.

III. Immunization Continuing Education Requirement

By December 31, 2020, any pharmacist licensed by the Commonwealth who physically immunizes or directly supervises immunizing activities **MUST** have completed 2 hours of ACPE-approved, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2020.

Effective January 1, 2021, any pharmacist licensed by the Commonwealth who physically immunizes or directly supervises immunizing activities **MUST** obtain at least 2 hours of ACPE-approved, immunization-related continuing pharmacy education every 2 years.

IV. Collaborative Practice Agreement Continuing Education Requirement (CDTM)

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).

VII. Further Information Regarding 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.

Supersedes Policy 2018-03

Please direct any questions to: Pharmacy.Admin@mass.gov