



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Board of Registration in Pharmacy

Policy 2021-04: Continuing Education (CE) Requirements for Pharmacists

I. General Compliance Information

- Except for CDTM pharmacists, a minimum of 20 contact hours of CE, including specialized topics / requirements below, must be completed by December 31 of each calendar year.
- Contact hours may not be carried over from one calendar year to another.
- A maximum of 8 contact hours may be claimed each calendar day.
- 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 Massachusetts-specific or "live").
- All pharmacists, including non-resident pharmacists practicing in other states or U.S. jurisdictions, **MUST** complete immunization, compounding, Collaborative Drug Therapy Management, and other CE requirements if they oversee or engage in these practices, as applicable. See below for details on these specific practices.
- The Board accepts the following types of credit: Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education ("ACPE"), Interprofessional Continuing Education ("IPCE"), AMA PRA Category 1 Credit, and any U.S. pharmacy Board approved programs.
- For any non-ACPE / IPCE credits that will not appear on your [CPE Monitor](#) profile, pharmacists must retain documentation (i.e., certificates of completion) of completed programs that must include:
 - participant's name;
 - title and activity number of the program;
 - credit type (e.g., AMA PRA Category 1, etc.);
 - name of the authorized provider;
 - whether the program was obtained in a "live" or "home study" format;
 - date of completion of the program; and
 - number of contact hours earned.
- Documentation of contact hours must be maintained for the most recent 2 full calendar years.

- A pharmacist who has failed to complete the requisite number of contact hours must email the Board with a detailed statement explaining the reasons.

II. Newly Licensed or Recently Transferred Pharmacists

Pharmacists who have obtained their Massachusetts license via exam or transfer on or after October 1 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: Contact hours are not required for the calendar year of graduation from an ACPE accredited college / school of pharmacy.

III. Immunization

Each calendar year, pharmacists who physically immunize or directly supervise immunizing activities **MUST** complete 1 contact hour of [ACPE-approved](#), immunization-related continuing pharmacy education.

IV. Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (“CDTM”)

For each calendar year of a CDTM agreement, pharmacists **MUST** complete at least 5 **additional** contact hours (i.e., total of 25 contact hours yearly) that address areas of practice generally related to the specific collaborative practice agreement. If there is more than one specific area of practice, it is recommended to obtain additional contact hours in each area, however only 25 total contact hours per calendar year are required.

Note: CDTM pharmacists with prescriptive authority are also required to obtain at least 1 contact hour of [pain management training](#) every 2 years. If the training is an accepted type of continuing education as above, it may be used toward the additional 5 contact hours. Examples of such programs are Boston University, *Prescribe to Prevent* and NEJM Group, [Pain Management and Opioids CME](#).

V. Sterile Compounding Duties

Each calendar year, pharmacists **MUST** complete 5 contact hours in the area of sterile compounding if they:

- oversee or are directly engaged in the practice of sterile compounding;
- supervise sterile compounding activities performed by other qualified compounding personnel;

- perform the final verification of finished compounded sterile preparations; or
- engage in any of the above activities at any point during the renewal period for any length of time even if temporary.

VI. Complex Non-Sterile Compounding Duties

Each calendar year, pharmacists **MUST** complete 3 contact hours in the area of [complex non-sterile compounding](#) if they:

- oversee or are directly engaged in the practice of complex non-sterile compounding;
- supervise complex non-sterile compounding activities performed by other qualified compounding personnel;
- perform the final verification of finished compounded complex non-sterile preparations; or
- engage in any of the above activities at any point during the renewal period for any length of time even if temporary.

VII. Compounding CE Criteria

- The 5 sterile or 3 complex non-sterile compounding CE contact hours may count towards the 20 contact hours required for each calendar year and may be completed as home study or in live format.
- The [ACPE compounding designation](#) alone is not sufficient to determine whether a program / course is acceptable for sterile or complex non-sterile compounding credit. The title of the program / course must include one of the following keywords:
 1. Sterile, sterility, compounded sterile preparations (“CSPs”), USP <797>, intravenous (“IV”), aseptic, parenteral, cleanroom, ISO class, media-fill, personnel monitoring, or environmental monitoring; **or**
 2. non-sterile compounding, compounded non-sterile preparations (“CNSPs”), oral, topical, transdermal, or USP <795>.

NOTE: If you feel that a program without one of these keywords should be acceptable for one of these categories, please contact the Board. Please note that USP <800> courses that are not specific for either sterile or non-sterile compounding would not be acceptable for compounding credit.

- Complex non-sterile compounding pharmacists are advised to seek programs that focus on specialized training, environment, facilities, equipment, and procedures (e.g., capsule volume calculations, etc.).

- CE programs that cover the regulatory component of compounding are acceptable to fulfill the requirement for both compounding and law contact hours as long as the regulatory component is approved as a “law” CE program and the compounding component meets the acceptable program criteria set forth above.

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