

**STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

**CME REQUIREMENTS FOR
(MD) PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON LICENSE**

In order to renew a license, completion of 100 credit hours of continuing medical education in the preceding biennial period, which runs from January 1 of the odd year through December 31 of the next even year, will be required for medical doctors.

- **Effective January 1, 2015**, Per Act 31 of 2014, two (2) hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements must be completed for renewal or reactivation of a license. Details and a list of Board-approved providers can be found at www.dos.pa.gov. Verification of completion must be sent electronically and directly from the course provider. It may take up to 7 days for the provider to submit the records to the Board's office.
***ACT 31 OF 2014 APPLIES REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A LICENSEE IS SUBJECT TO ANY OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOARD.**
- **Effective January 1, 2017**, Section 9.1(a)(2) of ABC-MAP* requires that all prescribers or dispensers, as defined in Section 3 of ABC-MAP, complete at least two hours of continuing education in pain management, the identification of addiction or in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids as a portion of the total continuing education required.
- The required continuing education is part of the total required and must be taken from a Board-approved continuing education provider.
- *The Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program Act (ABC-MAP) (Act 191 of 2014, as amended) is available on the Legislature's website at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=2014&sessInd=0&smthLwInd=0&act=191>
- **Effective May 1, 2026**, medical doctors must complete at least 2 hours of continuing education in organ and tissue donation and recovery process (organ donation) one time within 5 years of initial licensure or within 5 years of licensure renewal, whichever comes first.
- Twenty (20) of the 100 credit hours must be completed in AMA PRA Category 1 activities.
- At least 12 of the 100 hours must be completed in activities related to patient safety or risk management and may be completed in either Category 1 or 2.
- Note, the two (2) hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting that Act 31 requires and the two (2) hours of continuing education in pain management, the identification of addiction or in the practice of prescribing or dispensing of opioids that section 9.1(a)(2) of ABC-MAP requires cannot be counted toward the 12 credit hours of continuing medical education to be completed in the area of patient safety and risk management.
- The remaining credit hours shall be completed in either Category 1 or Category 2 approved activities.
- Credit will not be granted for courses in office management or practice building.

PRA/BOARD CERTIFICATION certificates are NOT proof of CME compliance by themselves. In addition to submitting a copy of their Board Certification or PRA certificates, the physician must supply copies of the certificates/documents submitted to earn the above. Please note: These certificates must include all of the required acceptable information.* All dates must fall within the two year time frame of the renewal cycle.

THE FOLLOWING ARE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD FOR CME:

Category 1 activities are those that have been approved by an accredited provider. Your CME certificate will also state that the activity has been approved for Category 1 credit and name the institution or organization that is awarding the credit. If you have participated in Category 1 activities, the provider should provide you with a certificate of completion.

***Acceptable certificates/documentation must include:**

- Name of the licensee
- Name of the course
- Date of the course
- Number of credit hours earned
- Provider of the course
- Category type

Category 2 credit hours are self-designated and claimed by individual physicians for participation in education activities not designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit that:

- comply with the AMA definition of CME; and
- a physician finds to be a worthwhile learning experience related to his/her practice.

Examples of learning activities that meet the requirements for AMA PRA Category 2 Credit include but are not limited to:

- participation in educational activities that have not been designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit
- teaching physicians, residents, medical students or other health professionals
- unstructured online searching and learning
- reading authoritative medical literature
- consultation with peers and medical experts
- small group discussions
- self assessment activities
- medical writing
- preceptorship participation
- research
- peer review and quality assurance participation

Category 2 Credit Documentation must include:

- activity title
- subject or content area
- date(s) of participation (i.e., month/day/year)
- number of credits claimed

A Category 2 Continuing Medical Education Reporting Form can be found on our web site at www.dos.pa.gov/med.

Calculation of Category 2. Physicians should claim credit based on their participation time with sixty minutes of participation equal to one (1) AMA PRA Category 2 credit. Credit is claimed in 15 minute or 0.25 credit increments; physicians must round to the nearest quarter hour.

Approved activities in the area of patient safety and risk management may include the following topics:

- Improving medical records and record keeping
- Reducing medical errors
- Professional conduct and ethics
- Improving communications
- Preventative medicine
- Healthcare quality improvements

The following exemptions of the continuing medical education requirement may apply for certain physicians:

- A licensee who holds an **active/retired license** and who provides care only to immediate family members shall be exempt from continuing medical education, **except for:**
- **2 hours of child abuse recognition and reporting requirements and**
- **2 hours of continuing education in pain management, the identification of addiction or in the practice of prescribing or dispensing of opioids.**
- A physician applying for licensure in this Commonwealth for the first time shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement for the biennial renewal period in which initial licensure is acquired.
- A physician holding a temporary training license within the renewal cycle shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement.
- A physician who is on **inactive status** shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement.

Waiver of the CME requirements may be permitted as follows:

- The board may grant a hardship waiver of all or a part of the continuing medical education requirement in cases of serious illness, military service, or other good cause provided that the public's safety and welfare will not be jeopardized by the granting of the waiver.
- A request for waiver must be made in writing, with appropriate documentation, and include a description of circumstances sufficient to show why compliance is impossible.
- Waiver requests will be evaluated by the board on a case-by-case basis. The board will send written notification of its approval or denial of a waiver request.
- **The waiver request should be submitted to the Board 90 days prior to the end of the biennial renewal period for which the waiver is being sought.**

NOTE: The option to request a waiver of the CME requirements applies only to physicians in Active status who wish to renew their license to an Active status. A physician who is seeking to reactivate an Expired/Inactive or Active-Retired license shall show proof of compliance with the continuing education requirement for the preceding renewal period.

For additional information regarding continuing education course providers, the following websites may be helpful:

Pennsylvania Medical Society	www.pamedsoc.org
American Medical Association	www.ama-assn.org/go/cme
Department of Insurance	www.mcare.state.pa.us

Additional information about continuing education and a copy of the Board's law and regulations can be found on our website at www.dos.pa.gov/med.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BOARD DOES NOT RECOMMEND OR ENDORSE CME COURSES.

IT IS THE LICENSEE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN/TRACK THEIR PERSONAL CME CREDIT HOURS.

LICENSEE SHALL RETAIN PROOF OF COMPLETION OF CME FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE CME OR AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE BIENNIAL REGISTRATION FOR WHICH THE CME WAS REQUIRED, WHICHEVER IS LATER.