

Special Notice for Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionists Regarding Continuing Education

Effective May 20, 2006, the PA State Board of Nursing established the requirement of at least 30 Board approved CPE (continuing professional education) credits biennially for all licensed dietitian-nutritionists (LDN) holding a license with the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing. LDNs must complete at least 30 CPE credits during the 2 calendar years immediately preceding the application for license renewal.

Beginning with the September 30, 2008 renewal, the LDN will be required to verify that they have completed at least 30 credits of continuing professional education in the two years preceding the renewal (from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2008). One hour of CPE credit will be given for each 50-minute clock hour of CPE activity. LDNs renewing for the renewal period ending August 2006 will not be required to show that they have completed 30 credits of continuing professional education in the previous biennium. However, LDNs renewing in 2008 should begin to accumulate continuing professional education credits from Board-approved providers following the 2006 renewal, so that they will have completed 30 credits within the two-year period preceding their next biennial renewal.

Through the regulation, the Board approved the following organizations as providers of continuing professional education for LDNs:

- The American Dietetic Association
- The American College of Nutrition
- Individual state dietetic associations if a member of the ADA or CAN

The Board will accept for completion of the CPE requirement substantive learning experiences relating to the field of nutrition and dietetics which are not designed for the public and which are sponsored by the ADA, the ACN, by approved college or dietetic programs that meet the requirements of section 6(b)(2) of the act (63 P.S. § 216(b)(2)) that are approved by the CADE or the ACN when a certificate of attendance is issued, and courses related to the practice of dietetics-nutrition offered by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the Accreditation Council on Pharmaceutical Education, the American Osteopathic Association and the American Medical Association.

Beginning with the September 2008 renewal, the LDNs will verify on the biennial renewal application that they have completed at least thirty (30) credits of continuing professional education approved by the Board during the two years immediately prior to the renewal. LDNs will not be required to submit certificate of completion of CPE with the biennial renewal but must retain these documents for at least five years and will submit this documentation upon request of the Board.

For more information, see the State Board of Nursing website at www.dos.pa.gov/nurse or contact the Board at P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649 or at 833-367-2762.