

CONTINUING PHARMACY EDUCATION

(3/1/2008)

In order for a pharmacist to renew an identification card to practice pharmacy, the pharmacist must provide evidence of continued pharmacy education (4729.12 ORC). Evidence of continuing pharmacy education must be submitted every three years (4729-7-02(A) OAC). Pharmacists licensed in Ohio are assigned to one of three reporting groups based on the date of initial licensure as a pharmacist in Ohio. One reporting group will be required to submit evidence of experiences each year on a rotating basis. (See General C.P.E. Reporting Requirements)

What is Continuing Pharmacy Education?

Continuing pharmacy education is post-registration pharmacy education of approved quality undertaken to maintain professional competency to practice pharmacy, improve professional skills, and preserve uniform qualifications for continuing the practice of the profession for the purpose of protecting public health and welfare. (4729-7-01(A) OAC)

Approved continuing pharmacy education is participation in an organized and structured continuing pharmacy education experience which has been presented by an approved provider or the state Board of Pharmacy and which presents information directly related to the practice of pharmacy. (4729-7-01(C) OAC)

An approved provider is an individual, institution, organization, association, corporation, or agency that has been approved by the state Board of Pharmacy and/or the "Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education" (ACPE). (4729-7-01(D) OAC)

Requirements for renewal of Pharmacist Identification Card:

Pharmacists must provide evidence of six CEUs (60 hours) of approved continuing pharmacy education every three years by the date indicated on the continuing pharmacy education report form. At least 0.3 CEUs (3 hours) of the total hours required must be obtained from Ohio Board approved programs in jurisprudence. A continuing education unit (CEU) is ten contact hours of participation in an organized continuing pharmacy education experience. (4729-7-02(A) OAC)

What is Board approved pharmacy jurisprudence?

"Pharmacy jurisprudence" is defined as continuing pharmacy education experiences that have been approved by the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy that deal with current laws, rules, and regulations dealing with the practice of pharmacy and the recent changes that have occurred to those laws, rules, and regulations. (4729-7-01(F) OAC)

Evidence of Continuing Pharmacy Education

Evidence of approved continuing pharmacy education is defined as a certificate or other document certifying that the pharmacist has satisfactorily participated in an organized and structured continuing pharmacy education experience which was presented by an approved

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provider (4729-7-01(E) OAC). The certificate or document must have the name of the participant, the completion date of the experience, the title of the experience, the number of CEUs assigned to the experience, the name of the provider, the experience identification number assigned by the provider, and the positive identification of the responsible person. (4729-7-06(D) OAC)

Pharmacists shall keep all certificates and other documented evidence of participation which has been issued for a period of one year following the year in which evidence was required for renewal. (4729-7-03(A) OAC)

CEUs must be obtained on or after March first of the year that is three years prior to May fifteenth of the year in which evidence is required for identification card renewal. (4729-7-02(C) OAC) The first time a pharmacist reports evidence of continuing education experiences, the pharmacist may provide evidence of continuing education obtained on or after their initial licensure.

If reporting of continuing education is required after a pharmacist's license has lapsed or where the license is being renewed after Board action, continuing education must be obtained during the three year period immediately proceeding the date the renewal application is filed with the Board office. (4729-7-02(C) & (E) OAC)

CEUs obtained in excess of the required CEUs at the time the continuing education is required for renewal of the identification card may not be transferred or applied to future reporting requirements. (4729-7-02(D) OAC)

Alternative methods of proving competency

As an alternative to providing evidence of all of the required CEUs except for the 0.3 CEUs of Ohio Board approved jurisprudence, a pharmacist may satisfy the requirements by providing evidence that the pharmacist has met the requirements of and is currently certified by a Board approved pharmacy practice specific specialty certification program. The pharmacy practice specific specialty certification program shall require periodic recertification examinations and provide documentation that the pharmacist is currently certified by the program.

The pharmacists who choose to meet their continuing pharmacy education requirements by providing evidence of pharmacy practice specific specialty certification are still required to provide evidence of having completed at least 0.3 CEUs of Ohio Board approved pharmacy jurisprudence. (4729-7-08 OAC)

Auditing of continuing pharmacy education

The Board will monitor compliance of continuing pharmacy education by auditing a random sample of registrants each reporting period (4729-7-03(C) OAC). When selected for an audit, the pharmacist will receive a letter notifying the pharmacist of the audit and requesting that the original certificates or documents be sent to the Board office to verify compliance with the continuing education requirements. The original certificates or documents will be returned to the pharmacist upon completion of the audit.

A pharmacist will be subject to further action by the board if the continuing pharmacy education report forms are not filed by the date indicated on the report form or if the CEUs submitted are incomplete or not approved or if documented evidence of participation is not within the required dates for the continuing pharmacy education reporting period.