

CME INFORMATION FOR PHYSICIANS

The American Medical Association Definition of CME¹

“CME consists of educational activities which serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession. The content of CME is the body of knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of health care to the public.” [AMA House of Delegates policy #300.988]

Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine Licensure Requirements for MDs²

To renew a medical license, the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine requires:

- 100 credit hours of continuing medical education in the two-year license period. The two-year period for MDs begins January 1 of odd-numbered years and runs through December 31 of the next even-numbered year (e.g., January 1, 2005-December 31, 2006).
- At least 20 of the CME hours must be in *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*TM. Category 1 Credit is awarded by an accredited CME provider. The remaining credit hours can be in either Category 1 or Category 2 credit.
- 12 hours must be in the area of patient safety or risk (Category 1 or Category 2 credit).
- Courses in office management or practice building do not qualify to meet the CME requirement for licensure.

At the time of license renewal, physicians are asked to attest that they have met the CME requirement. Physicians may be audited at random by the State Board of Medicine to provide evidence that they have completed the required hours. Physicians should maintain documentation of CME in the form of Category 1 Credit certificates or transcripts, records of self-directed learning, and documentation of topics related to patient safety/risk.

State Board of Osteopathic Medicine licensure requirements for DOs³

- To renew a medical license, the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine requires 100 credit hours of continuing medical education in the two-year license period. The licensure cycle for the Pennsylvania Board of Osteopathic Medicine runs from November 1 of even-numbered years through October 31 of the next even-numbered year (e.g., November 1, 2004-October 31, 2006).
- At least 20 of the required hours must be in courses granted AOA category 1A approval
- 12 hours must be in the area of patient safety or risk

At the time of license renewal, physicians are asked to attest that they have met the CME requirement. Physicians may be audited at random by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to provide evidence that they have completed the required hours. Physicians should maintain documentation of CME in the form of AOA category 1A credit certificates or transcripts, records of self-directed learning, and documentation of topics related to patient safety/risk.

American Medical Association Physician’s Recognition Award (AMA PRA) Credit¹

- **Category 1 Credit**
Category 1 Credit is awarded for structured educational activities which have been approved in advance by an accredited provider. Providers may be approved by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)⁴ or by an ACCME-recognized state medical society. A CME certificate for Category 1 activities will indicate that the activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*TM and will include the name of the accredited provider that is awarding the credit; the name of the physician; the title, date, and location of the activity; and the

number of credits awarded. Category 1 activities may include live courses, printed materials, computer-based learning, or on-line courses.

- **Category 2 Credit**

Category 2 Credit hours consist of self-directed learning or courses that have not been approved through a formal approval process. Category 2 Credit must meet the AMA definition of CME, must comply with the AMA ethical opinions (i.e., cannot be promotional), and must be relevant to the physician's practice of medicine. Physicians self-report Category 2 Credit by documenting the nature of the self-directed learning, the date the learning took place, and the length of time spent in the learning. Physicians may claim Category 2 Credit for learning activities such as teaching residents, medical students, or other health professionals; reading authoritative medical literature; medical writing or research; or participating in live activities. A CME Category 2 Reporting Form is available through the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine⁶.

Patient Safety and Risk Management Topics²

Activities in patient safety and risk management may include the following topics:

- Patient safety
- Risk management
- Improving medical records and record keeping
- Reducing medical errors
- Professional conduct and ethics
- Improving communications
- Preventative medicine
- Health-care quality improvements

Because there is no formal mechanism designed by the Board of Medicine to determine which CME activities qualify to meet the patient safety/risk management requirement, it is important for the individual physician to maintain documentation of CME (either formal or self-directed) which is completed in the patient safety/risk areas, including listings of specific presentation topics and/or learning objectives.

RESOURCES

1. The American Medical Association's Physician's Recognition Award and Credit System Booklet
<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/455/pr2006.pdf>
2. State Board of Medicine CME Requirement for MDs
http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/lib/bpoa/20/medbd/cme_md_unrestricted_licsne.pdf
3. State Board of Osteopathic Medicine CME Requirement for DOs
http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/lib/bpoa/20/ostbd/continuing_education_news.pdf
4. Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education
<http://www.accme.org/>
5. The Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine
<http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/cwp/view.asp?a=1104&q=432799>

6. The Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine Category 2 Credit Reporting Form
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_board_of_medicine/12512/cme_requirements/572037

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