

Continuing Medical Education for Licensure Reregistration

Sixty-one boards (including Wyoming, as of January 1, 2007) require continuing medical education (CME) for license reregistration. Some states also mandate CME content, such as HIV/AIDS, risk management, or end of life palliative care. In addition, many states also require that a certain percentage of CME be category 1, as measured, for example, through the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award. Forty-eight states accept the AMA PRA certificate or application as equivalent for purposes of licensure reregistration.

The most common methods for physicians to report that they have met their CME requirements to licensing boards is through the use of a check box or a signed statement included with the license application. Most licensing boards use a random audit to monitor physician compliance with this requirement. The percentage of physicians audited varies significantly from one jurisdiction to the next, ranging from one percent to 25%, with a number of boards reporting an audit rate of 10%.

Additional Notes for Specific Licensing Jurisdictions

California MD and DO—All general internists and family physicians who have a patient population of which more than 20% are 65 years of age or older shall complete at least 20% of all mandatory continuing education hours in geriatric medicine or the care of older patients.

All physicians and surgeons shall complete mandatory continuing education in the subjects of pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients (one-time requirement of 12 credits). Physicians must complete this requirement by their second license renewal date or within 4 years, whichever comes first

Physicians practicing in pathology or radiology specialty areas are exempt from this requirement.

Florida—Physicians may complete a 1-hour CME course on end-of-life and palliative health care in lieu of the required 1-hour CME course on HIV/AIDS, provided the physician completed the HIV/AIDS course in the immediately preceding biennium (2-year licensure term).

Physicians may complete a 1-hour CME course on end-of-life and palliative health care in lieu of the required 1-hour CME course on domestic violence, provided the physician completed the domestic violence course in the immediately preceding biennium (2-year licensure term).

Maryland—Partial CME credit is offered for American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certification, select peer review, serving as an intervenor or monitor on a physician rehabilitation committee or professional committee, and serving as a preceptor for resident physicians or medical students in LCME-accredited schools. For first license renewal, the CME requirement is waived, but the licensee must have completed an approved orientation program.

Washington DO—Other certificates accepted as equivalent include current certification of CME from medical practice academies and original certification or recertification within 6 years by a specialty board.

Washington MD—The board classifies CME into five different categories. A candidate for relicensure may earn all 200 required hours every 4 years in Category I; a maximum of 80 hours may be earned in any of the other four categories. For more information, see: https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/hpqa1/hps5/Medical/physician_edu.htm

Table 16
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| | Required Number of CME Credits per Year(s) | | Average Credits per Year | AMA PRA Category 1™ or Equivalent AOA, AAFP or ACOG Credits | Certificates/Awards Accepted as Documentation | | | | | | | | State-Mandated CME Content/ Additional Notes |
|----------------|--|-------|--------------------------|---|---|--------------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-------------|---|
| | | | | | AMA PRA | AMA PRA app. | AOA | ABMS | AAFP | ACOG | GME | Other | |
| Alabama | 12 | 1 yr | 12 | 12 | | | | | Yes | Yes | | | |
| Alaska | 50 | 2 yrs | 25 | 50 | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | | |
| Arizona | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | | | Yes | | |
| Arizona DO | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | 12 per yr (AOA 1-A) | | | | | | | Yes | | 12 AOA 1-A credits per year |
| Arkansas | 20 | 1 yr | 20 | not specified | Yes | | Yes | | | | | | |
| California* | 100 | 4 yrs | 25 | 100 | | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | | CMA CAFP | Pain management, geriatric medicine, end-of-life care (see note) |
| California DO* | 150 | 3 yrs | 50 | 60 (AOA 1) | | | Yes | | Yes | | | CMA CAFP | Pain management, geriatric medicine, end-of-life care (see note) |
| Colorado | none | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Connecticut | 50 | 2 yrs | 25 | | | | | | | | | | Infectious disease, risk management, sexual assault, domestic violence |
| Delaware | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | 40 | Yes | | Yes | | | | | | |
| DC | 50 | 2 yrs | 25 | 50 | | Yes | | | | | | | |
| Florida* | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | 40 | Yes | | | | | | | | HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, prevention of medical errors |
| Florida DO | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | 20 (AOA 1-A) | | Yes | Yes | | | | | | HIV/AIDS and domestic violence (first renewal only); risk management, FL rules/laws, use/abuse of controlled substances, med error prevention |
| Georgia | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | 40 | Yes | | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | ACEP | |
| Guam | 100 | 2 yrs | 50 | 50 | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | ACEP | Ethics (2 credits every 2 years) |
| Hawaii | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | 40 | Yes | | | | | | | | |
| Hawaii DO | none | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Idaho | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | 40 | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | | | | |
| Illinois | 150 | 3 yrs | 50 | 60 | Yes | | Yes | | | | | | |
| Indiana | none | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Iowa | 40 | 2 yrs | 20 | 40 | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | | | | Training for identifying and reporting abuse required every 5 yrs for EM, FM, IM, GP, OB/GYN, and Psych |
| Kansas | 50 | 1 yr | 50 | 20 | Yes | | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | | |
| Kentucky | 60 | 3 yrs | 20 | 30 | Yes | | | Yes | | | | | One-time domestic violence course for primary care physicians; 2 credits HIV/AIDS every 10 yrs; course must be KY-approved |
| Louisiana | 20 | 1 yr | 20 | 20 | Yes | | | | | | | | One-time board orientation course |
| Maine | 100 | 2 yrs | 50 | 40 | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | | | |
| Maine DO | 100 | 2 yrs | 50 | 40 | | | Yes | | | | | | |
| Maryland* | 50 | 2 yrs | 25 | 50 | | Yes | | | Yes* | | | | (see note) |
| Massachusetts | 100 | 2 yrs | 50 | 40 | Yes | | | | | | Yes | | Study board reqs; risk mgmt |
| Michigan | 150 | 3 yrs | 50 | 75 | | Yes | | | | | | | |
| Michigan DO | 150 | 3 yrs | 50 | 60 (AOA 1) | | | Yes | | | | | | 60 credits Category 1-A or 1-B |

(continued on next page)

Table 16 (continued)
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|----------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|---|
| | | | | AMA PRA | AMA PRA app. | AOA | ABMS | AAFP | ACOG | GME | Other | | |
| Vermont | none | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vermont DO | 30 2 yrs | 15 | | Yes | | | | | | | | | At least 12 of 30 credits must be osteopathic med education |
| Virgin Islands | 25 1 yr | 25 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 60 2 yrs | 30 | 30 | | Yes | | | | | | | | Of Category 1, 15 credits must be interactive |
| Washington | 200 4 yrs | 50 | Not specified | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | |
| Washington DO* | 150 3 yrs | 50 | 60 | Yes | | Yes | | | | | | (See note) | |
| West Virginia | 50 2 yrs | 25 | 50 | Yes | | | Yes (partial) | | | | | | 2 credits end-of-life pain management (one-time req.) |
| West Virginia DO | 32 2 yrs | 16 | 16 (AOA 1-A or 1-B) | | | Yes | | | | | | | 2 credits end-of-life pain management (one-time req.) |
| Wisconsin | 30 2 yrs | 15 | 30 | Yes | | | | | | | | | |
| Wyoming | 60 3 yrs | 20 | 60 | Yes | | | | | | | | | |
| Total/Average | 66 2.2 | 30 | 37.8 | 36 | 12 | 24 | 18 | 17 | 6 | 8 | 9 | | |

Abbreviations

ABMS—certification or recertification by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

AMA PRA—American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award

AOA—American Osteopathic Association

AAFP—American Academy of Family Practice

ACEP—American College of Emergency Physicians

ACOG—American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

CMA—California Medical Association

CAFP—California Academy of Family Physicians

CME—continuing medical education

GME—graduate medical education

MOCOMP—Maintenance of Competence Program, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

OSMA—Ohio State Medical Association

USMLE—United States Medical Licensing Association

* Refer to introductory text to this table for more information on this state's regulations.

Note: All information should be verified with licensing board; medical licenses are granted to those physicians meeting all state requirements—at the discretion of the board.