

## Increase in Continuing Education Hours Required for License Renewal

The State Board of Podiatry is in the process of amending its regulations to increase the biennial continuing education (CE) requirement from 30 hours to 50 hours.

In order to renew a license, a podiatrist must have completed 50 hours of continuing education during the immediately preceding two-year license period. A license period runs from Jan. 1 of an odd-numbered year through Dec. 31 of the next even-numbered year.

At least 30 of the 50 continuing education hours must be obtained through programs or courses approved by the board or the Council on Podiatric Medical Education. The remaining hours may be in courses and programs that are in related medical subjects and that are approved by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association.

A maximum of 10 CE hours may be obtained through approved programs and courses that are Internet-based or that involve the review of magazine or journal articles.

The following categories of podiatrists are wholly or partially exempt from continuing education requirements:

- A podiatrist who graduated from a school of podiatric medicine and surgery and received a license to practice podiatry in the same calendar year.
- A podiatrist who was on active military duty at the time of license renewal or who was discharged from active military duty within 12 months prior to the license renewal. If the discharge from active military duty occurred 12 or more months prior to license renewal, the podiatrist may claim an exemption of 7.5 CE hours for each six-month period of active military duty.

- A podiatrist who was enrolled in a podiatric residency program approved by the American Podiatric Association. If the residency was not co-extensive with the entire license period, the podiatrist may claim an exemption of 7.5 CE hours for each six-month period of the residency.

The following procedures govern the waiver of CE for non-exempt podiatrists:

- The board may grant a waiver of all or part of the CE requirement, on a case-by-case basis, in circumstances involving serious illness or other documented hardship, provided that the granting of the waiver will not jeopardize the public safety and welfare.
- A podiatrist seeking a CE waiver must submit a written request to the board together with a \$50 processing fee. The waiver request must set forth in detail the circumstances that prevent compliance with the CE requirement and must include appropriate documentation. The waiver request is considered untimely if it is made after the license period during which the CE was to have been completed. The board will provide written notification of its granting or denial of a waiver request.

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