

## A Finding from Audits of Continuing Education Contact Hours Claimed for Renewal of Pharmacist License

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The State Board of Pharmacy recently contacted a random sample of Pennsylvania licensed pharmacists to audit their compliance with Continuing Education requirements as found in Section 27.32 of the [State Board of Pharmacy regulations](#). Based on a summary of audit results, one finding signaled an opportunity to ensure that pharmacists (1) are aware of the Patient Safety continuing education requirement and (2) know which continuing education lessons meet the Patient Safety requirement.

- Section 27.32 specifically requires completion of 2 of the 30 required contact hours in courses from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) topic designator “Patient Safety.” The topic designator for “Patient Safety” is “05.”
- The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), the ACPE, and continuing education providers collaborate to track continuing education online. The pharmacist establishes an *e-Profile* on the [NABP website](#); CPE Monitor is the section of the *e-Profile* that enables the pharmacist to view completed continuing education and to print an activity transcript. A sample activity transcription is shown below to help the reader know where the designator appears in the universal activity number (UAN).

TABLE 1: Sample Activity Transcription						
Activity Date	ACPE Universal Activity Number (UAN)	Title	Provider	Format	Topic Designators	Contact Hours (CEU)
CPE Date	####-####-##-###-L <b>05</b> -P	CPE Title	CPE Provider’s Name	live, home study, or both	<b>Patient Safety</b>	# of hrs.

The UAN assigned by the provider will include a [topic designator](#) “05” if the continuing education topic is Patient Safety. In this article, the designator is shown above in **red font** to call attention to it. The “Topic Designators” column also confirms that the continuing education was on the topic of Patient Safety. Please see Table 2 below for additional information about the numbers and letters in Universal Activity Numbers.

TABLE 2: What are the Parts of the Universal Activity Number?					
	Provider Number	Joint Provider Designator	Format Designator	Topic Designators	Target Audience Designator
What is this part of the UAN?	ACPE-assigned number for the provider responsible for issuing statements of credit and updating the ACPE activity database	0000 = no joint provider  9999 = jointly provided with another organization	L = live  H = home study  B = both live/home study formats	01 = disease state management/drug therapy  02 = AIDS therapy  03 = law (related to pharmacy practice)	P = if the target audience is exclusively for pharmacists  T = if the target audience is exclusively for technicians

				04 = general pharmacy	
				05 = patient safety	

Pharmacists who are audited and are not in compliance with Board Regulation Section 27.32 may receive disciplinary action against their licenses. The State Board of Pharmacy urges all pharmacists to complete continuing education as required by the current regulations.

### **Don't Delay Completing the Child Abuse Reporter Training Mandated by Act 31**

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Mid-2016, the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy (Board) will begin renewing licenses of pharmacists who have completed a minimum of 30 contact hours of continuing education earned during the current biennial renewal period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016:

- There is a new requirement that two hours of the 30 hours must be Child Abuse Reporter Training that has been approved **by the Board**.

Providers of the approved Child Abuse Reporter Training will submit confirmation of the pharmacist's training directly and electronically to the Board. The electronic submission must be received by the Board before the Board can process the pharmacist's license renewal. The Board is unable to confirm the time frame in which an approved provider will submit the continuing education results. For this reason, the Board is encouraging pharmacists to avoid delay and to complete the Child Abuse Reporter Training at least a month prior to license expiration. If you have questions regarding a provider's submission to the Board confirming your Child Abuse Reporter Training, please contact the approved provider directly before contacting the Board office. *Complete the newly required Child Abuse Reporter Training early* to ensure that the Board can renew your pharmacist license before the current license expires on September 30, 2016.

Helpful Information:

1. A list of *Board-approved* Act 31 Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Continuing Education providers is posted at [www.dos.pa.gov/pharm](http://www.dos.pa.gov/pharm) under "Announcements." Additional information on Act 31 is also posted here.
2. When you register for Child Abuse Reporter Training, be sure to use the exact same name under which you are registered with the Board. Your registered name will be printed on your current pharmacist license registration (unless you recently submitted a request for a legal name change). Do not use nicknames or common name

abbreviations when registering for continuing education programs – use only your registered name.

3. The two hours of child abuse recognition and reporting continuing education may be used towards the total 30 hours of continuing education that must be earned during a biennial renewal period. If you complete a three hour child abuse recognition and reporting continuing education program, please keep in mind that only two hours will count towards your 30 hours of continuing education.
4. The child abuse recognition and reporting continuing education must be Board-approved whereas the remaining 28 hours of your continuing education must be approved as pharmacist continuing education by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). Note: At this time, only ACPE-approved programs are reported to the CPE Monitor.
5. Remember that two of the 30 hours of continuing education must be in the ACPE topic designator “Patient Safety” (05). Please review the program’s universal activity number to confirm that the program was approved by ACPE as “Patient Safety.” The title of the program will not provide this information.
6. Pharmacists who hold the authorization to administer injectables have an additional requirement to complete two hours (out of the 30 total) concerning the administration of injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations, including, but not limited to, disease epidemiology, vaccine characteristics, injection technique, emergency response to adverse events and related topics.
7. Please refer to Board Regulation Section 27.32 for more information on the continuing education requirements. The Board Regulations are posted at [www.dos.pa.gov/pharm](http://www.dos.pa.gov/pharm) under “Board Laws and Regulations,” “Regulations.”

Pennsylvania Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP)

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October 27, 2014 Senate Bill #1180 was signed by the Governor creating the ABC-MAP program referred to as the state’s Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The Act is intended to increase the quality of patient care by giving prescribers and dispensers access to a patient’s prescription medication history through an electronic system that will alert medical professionals to potential dangers for purposes of making treatment determinations. The Act further intends that patients will have a thorough and easily obtainable record of their prescriptions for purposes of making educated and thoughtful health care decisions. Finally, the Act seeks to aid regulatory and law enforcement agencies in the detection and prevention of fraud, drug abuse and criminal diversion of controlled substances.

The Act creates an ABC-MAP Board in the Department of Health. The Board is chaired by the Secretary of Health and is composed of various other Department Secretaries, the Insurance Commissioner, the Commissioner of the State Police and the Attorney General. The ABC-MAP Board has been given certain tasks throughout the year to monitor and evaluate the Act for effectiveness, the impact on the citizens of the Commonwealth and to safeguard the data and information mandated by the Act.

The Act defines “dispenser” as a person lawfully authorized to dispense in this Commonwealth, including mail order and Internet sales of pharmaceuticals. The term does NOT include any of the following:

- a licensed health care facility that distributes the controlled substance for the purpose of administration in the licensed health care facility
- a correctional facility or its contractors if the confined person cannot lawfully visit a prescriber outside the correctional facility without being escorted by a corrections officer
- an authorized person who administers a controlled substance, other drug or device
- a wholesale distributor of a controlled substance
- a licensed provider in the LIFE program
- a provider of hospice as defined in the act of July 19, 1979 (known as the Health Care Facilities Act)
- a prescriber at a licensed health care facility if the quantity of controlled substances dispensed is limited to an amount adequate to treat the patient for a maximum of five days and does not allow a refill
- a veterinarian.

Dispensers (under the Act) are required to submit electronically, according to the format determined by the ABC-MAP Board, data elements relating to the dispensing of Schedule II, III, IV and V controlled substances. Data elements required for the transmission include: (1) full name of the prescriber, (2) the prescriber’s Drug Enforcement Administration number, (3) the date the prescription was written, (4) the date the prescription was dispensed, (5) the full name, date of birth, gender and address of the person for whom the prescription was written and dispensed, (6) the National Drug Code (NDC), (7) the quantity and days’ supply, (8) the DEA registration number and National Provider Identifier of the dispenser or pharmacy and (9) the method of payment for the prescription. This data must be submitted by the dispensers no later than seventy-two (72) hours after dispensing a controlled substance.

The ABC-MAP Board must also establish professionally developed criteria that generates referrals of PMP information to appropriate licensing boards for alerts of patterns of irregular data, identify patients at risk for controlled substance abuse and provide referral and treatment options for patients. The Board must provide training and support for those using the system and assist professional organizations whose members prescribe, monitor or treat patients to develop educational programs for those members relating to prescribing practices, pharmacology, controlled substance abuse and clinical standards.

The Commonwealth is currently developing the ABC-MAP program and establishing the ABC-MAP Board. News of the program will be provided to pharmacists once program details are complete.