

**STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE  
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

**CME REQUIREMENTS FOR  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSE**

In order to renew a physician assistant license, all licensees must be in compliance with the Board's continuing education requirements for the biennial renewal period from January 1 of the odd year through December 31 of the next even year. Physician assistants must have a current NCCPA (National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants) certification in order to renew their license. For information regarding maintaining NCCPA certification, please refer to their website at [www.NCCPA.net](http://www.NCCPA.net).

- **Effective January 1, 2015**, Per Act 31 of 2014, two (2) hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements must be completed for renewal or reactivation of a license. Details and a list of Board-approved providers can be found at [www.dos.pa.gov](http://www.dos.pa.gov). Verification of completion must be sent electronically and directly from the course provider. It may take up to 7 days for the provider to submit the records to the Board's office.
- **Effective January 1, 2017**, Section 9.1(a)(2) of ABC-MAP\* requires that all prescribers or dispensers, as defined in Section 3 of ABC-MAP, complete at least two hours of continuing education in pain management, the identification of addiction or in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids as a portion of the total continuing education required.
  - The required continuing education is part of the total required and must be taken from a Board-approved continuing education provider.
  - \*The Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program Act (ABC-MAP) (Act 191 of 2014, as amended) is available on the Legislature's website at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=2014&sessInd=0&smthLwInd=0&act=191>
- In order to be in compliance with the Board's continuing education requirement, you must hold current NCCPA certification.

**The following exemptions of the continuing medical education requirement may apply for certain physician assistants:**

- A physician assistant applying for licensure in this Commonwealth for the first time shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement for the biennial renewal period in which initial licensure is acquired.
- A physician assistant holding a temporary license within the renewal cycle shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement.
- A physician assistant who is on **inactive status** shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement.
- A physician assistant who is seeking to reinstate an inactive or lapsed license shall show proof of compliance with the continuing education requirement for the preceding renewal period.

**Waiver of the CME requirements may be permitted as follows:**

- The board may grant a hardship waiver of all or a part of the continuing medical education requirement in cases of serious illness, military service or other good cause provided that the public's safety and welfare will not be jeopardized by the granting of the waiver.
- A request for waiver must be made in writing, with appropriate documentation, and include a description of circumstances sufficient to show why compliance is impossible.
- Waiver requests will be evaluated by the board on a case-by-case basis. The Board will send written notification of its approval or denial of a waiver request.
- **The waiver request must be submitted to the Board 90 days prior to the end of the biennial renewal period for which the waiver is being sought.**

**For additional information regarding continuing education course providers, the following website may be helpful:**

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants

[www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)

**Additional information about continuing education and a copy of the Board's law and regulations can be found on our website at [www.dos.pa.gov/med](http://www.dos.pa.gov/med).**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE BOARD DOES NOT RECOMMEND OR ENDORSE CME COURSES.**

**IT IS THE LICENSEE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN/TRACK THEIR PERSONAL CME CREDIT HOURS EARNED TOWARDS MAINTAINING NCCPA CERTIFICATION.**

**LICENSEE SHALL RETAIN PROOF OF COMPLETION OF CME FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE CME OR AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE BIENNIAL REGISTRATION FOR WHICH THE CME WAS REQUIRED, WHICHEVER IS LATER.**