

Pharmacist Continuing Education Requirements

To renew their pharmacist licenses, pharmacists are required to complete pharmacist continuing education approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or by the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy (Board). Of the total 30 contact hours that pharmacists must complete, continuing education in the following special topics is required:

1. 2 hours of Board-approved child abuse recognition and reporting continuing education. A list of Board-approved courses is posted here - [Board Approved Act 31 of 2014 Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Continuing Education Providers](#). The same program or a different program must be completed each renewal period.
2. At least 2 hours of pharmacist continuing education in pain management, the identification of addiction or in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. This continuing education must be ACPE-approved or Board-approved. Note: Board-approved programs will be posted on the Board of Pharmacy's web site (www.dos.pa.gov/pharm) once programs have been approved.
3. 2 hours in the ACPE topic designator "Patient Safety." The ACPE topic designator for "Patient Safety" is "05." The topic designator appears near the end of the Universal Activity Number (ex. xxxx-xxxx-xx-xxx-x05-P).
4. If a pharmacist also holds the authorization to administer injectables, at least 2 hours must concern 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.

Reduction in the total number of hours that must be completed for renewal:

To renew, individuals who reciprocate to Pennsylvania during the current renewal period will have the number of hours required to be completed prorated, on a quarterly basis, from the date of licensure to the next date of renewal. For this purpose, each quarter will consist of 3 months, and will be credited for 3.75 contact hours (.375 CEU). The pharmacist will be required to begin accumulating contact hours at the beginning of the next quarter following licensure. **The "special topic" continuing education noted above in items 1, 2, 3 and 4 must be completed by these individuals**, even if the number of prorated hours is fewer than the special topic requirements. All pharmacist continuing education must be ACPE or Board-approved.

A newly graduated licensee will be exempt from most of the continuing education for the license renewal immediately following licensure. However, the Board is unable to exempt these licensees from the requirements of Act 31 and Act 124. To renew their license, these licensees must complete 2 hours of Board-approved child abuse recognition and reporting continuing education and at least 2 hours of pharmacist continuing education in pain management, the identification of addiction or in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. All pharmacist continuing education must be ACPE or Board-approved.

See the Board's regulations at Section 27.32 and Acts 124 of 2016 and 31 of 2014. While this notice is meant to be informative, if there are any conflicts between this notice and the Board's regulations or the applicable laws, the requirements in the laws and regulations will control.

The Pharmacy Act and the Board's regulations are available on the Board's website at:

<http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Pharmacy/Pages/Board-Laws-and-Regulations.aspx>.

Act 124 of 2016 (Achieving Better Care by Monitoring all Prescriptions Program Act (ABC-MAP)) is available on the Legislature's website at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2016&sessInd=0&act=124>.

Act 31 of 2014 (Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Requirements) 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=31>.

NABP e-Profile Mobile App/CPE Monitor Plus Launch

On April 9, 2018, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) launched the free NABP e-Profile mobile application for Apple and Android devices. The first service that will be featured on this new mobile platform is a CPE Monitor for any pharmacist that holds an NABP e-Profile and has at least one license in their profile. All users will have the option to maintain their free, standard version of CPE Monitor, and pharmacists will have the option to upgrade to the CPE Monitor Plus subscription plan with enhanced features. (Enhanced features for pharmacy technicians are under development.)

CPE Monitor Plus automatically tracks a pharmacist's progress in every state where they hold a license, and includes the following features:

- Verify how much and what types of continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit must be earned to satisfy renewal requirements
- Receive alerts when a license is nearing the end of a CPE cycle
- Upload non-Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education courses
- View consolidated transcripts for each state license

If you have additional questions about the NABP e-Profile app or the CPE Monitor Plus subscription plan, please contact NABP at CPEMonitor@nabp.pharmacy, or visit www.nabp.pharmacy/cpe.

Provider Enrollment Reminder



The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) implemented the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provision requiring all CHIP network providers to be screened and enrolled with DHS. Thus far provider enrollment has been gradual at best.

Providers may have been reluctant to enroll for several reasons. Some providers have raised questions about the application fee. Individual providers are not required to pay a fee. The application fee of \$560.00 applies to institutional providers such as Inpatient Facilities, Extended Care Facilities and DME/Medical Suppliers. The uncertainty regarding the federal reauthorization of CHIP may have been another concern. We have good news -- CHIP has been reauthorized for the next 10 years!

The deadline for CHIP providers to enroll with DHS was December 31, 2017. However, there is still time to enroll and continue receiving payment for services to CHIP children.

Remember: registering as a CHIP-only provider does **not** mean providers must accept Medical Assistance beneficiaries.

Enrollment information and the ability to enroll electronically are available at the following website: <http://dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/CHIPProEnrollInfo/index.htm>.

Providers are encouraged to enroll electronically.

If you have any questions or issues with the enrollment process, contact the Provider Enrollment Hotline at 1-800-537-8862, select options 3, 1, 1, and finally option 4 to speak to a representative.



Naloxone Access and Pennsylvania's Standing Order

The opioid crisis is upon us, and people are dying from overdoses at an alarming rate. In 2017, 5,443 Pennsylvanians died of a drug overdose, compared to 3,797 in 2016. This 43.3 percent increase was the largest in the country.

Naloxone is the drug that can reverse an opioid overdose. It is available in a nasal spray (Narcan®), an IM injection (with a nasal aspirator adapter), and an auto-injector (Evzio®). If administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the opioid receptors and reverses the overdose, and potentially saves a life. However, if an overdose occurs, and nobody at the scene has naloxone, or if first responders arrive too late, the person may die.

This is where pharmacists come in. Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania's Physician General, has signed a standing order for naloxone. The standing order can be accessed here

<http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/M-Opioids/Documents/General%20Public%20Standing%20Order.pdf>

This standing order allows pharmacists to dispense naloxone, in one of the three forms listed, to eligible persons (those at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose, their family members or friends or other persons who are in a position to assist the at-risk person). In addition, Act 139 of 2014

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2014&sessInd=0&act=139>

provides immunity from prosecution for those who report, in good faith, a drug overdose event. Simply put, Pennsylvania has one of the best programs in the country to allow for access to naloxone for the public.

I strongly encourage each and every pharmacist to become familiar with the Standing Order. Read it, print it out, and keep it in the pharmacy where you work. Stock naloxone and have it available for someone who needs it. Embedded in the Standing Order is a link to become trained in using naloxone. After you get trained, you will be familiar with naloxone, and be able to dispense it with confidence. Patient education is required in the Standing Order. Becoming trained will put you in a position to do this.

Once trained, you will be comfortable dispensing naloxone and helping save lives. But don't wait for someone to walk in the pharmacy and ask for it . . . offer naloxone to your patients. Anyone who is in recovery and is getting a prescription for Suboxone® knows what naloxone is. Perhaps they have suffered an overdose and survived to recover, or have known someone who has overdosed. Also, offer naloxone to anyone getting a prescription filled for oxycodone or hydrocodone, as these drugs can be diverted and kill. Almost nobody will refuse the offer of naloxone, and in most cases, the patient will thank you for caring.

Robert Frankil, RPh

Independent Community Pharmacy Representative to the State Board of Pharmacy

Sellersville Pharmacy and Sellersville Pharmacy at Penn Foundation