

September 1, 2009

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO LICENSED NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS
REGARDING INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
HOURS REQUIRED FOR LICENSE RENEWAL EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010**

The Board of Naturopathic Medicine is in the process of amending its licensing rules concerning Continuing Education (CE). The amended rules increase the number of CE hours required for an active license. The increase would be incremental over four years, beginning with the annual renewal period that commences on January 1, 2010. The amended rules also remove certain limitations on how CE credits may be obtained. Naturopathic physicians should plan their CE activities accordingly.

Why an increase in CE hours?

Simply put, for increased professionalism.

Who is effected?

All naturopathic physicians holding an active license will see an increase in the number of hours required annually. Other licensees will see that the options for obtaining hours is changing.

When will this new requirement take effect?

For the annual renewal period beginning on January 1, 2010, you would need to obtain at least 35 hours of approved CE. At least 10 of these hours must be in pharmacology and at least 2 of these hours must be in medical ethics.

For the annual renewal period beginning on January 1, 2011, you would need to obtain at least 40 hours of approved CE. At least 10 of these hours must be in pharmacology and at least two of these hours must be in medical ethics.

For the annual renewal period beginning on January 1, 2012, you would need to obtain at least 45 hours of approved CE. At least 10 of these hours must be in pharmacology and at least two of these hours must be in medical ethics.

For the annual renewal period beginning on January 1, 2013, and for each annual renewal period thereafter, you would need to obtain at least 50 hours of approved CE. At least 10 of these hours must be in pharmacology and at least two of these hours must be in medical ethics.

Could I get all my CE credits by taking online CE classes?

Yes, under the amended rules, it would be possible to receive all of your required CE credits by taking approved online (or video- or audio-taped) classes. The amended rules no longer require in-person or live CE.

Where can I find information on online CE classes?

The Board's website provides several online options at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OBNM/Onlineoptions.shtml>. Many of the classes are free and can be completed at your own pace at your own time.

Will there be a limit to the number of hours I can obtain in one subject area (ie. Online)?

The limit on the number of hours the one can obtain in a subject will be lifted with the 2010 renewal period. You can get all of your hours in one subject area, as long as you make certain you get 10 hours in pharmacology and two in ethics.

Besides taking CE classes, what are other ways in which I can get CE credits?

With the new rule, you may continue to receive CE credits by participating in Board-approved activities listed in OAR 850-040-0210(6). These include literature review, writing articles related to naturopathic medicine, research and teaching.

The amended rules will remove the current upper limits on how many CE credits may be obtained for literature review and writing articles with the 2010 renewal. This means that you would be able to apply for CE credits for the actual time spent on these activities.

Again, when will these changes take effect?

These changes to your Continuing Education Requirements (OAR 850-040-0210) will take effect January 1, 2010.