

OREGON BOARD OF OPTOMETRY BOARD BULLETIN



Board Newsletter

August 2015

2015 Licensee Survey Results

Thank you to the 305 respondents!

This survey was designed to gauge the agency's effectiveness and licensee interest in several new services that are being researched. Overall, feedback was very positive about the agency's helpfulness, timeliness, and ability to help the first time. Many licensees had comments about CE reporting. Comments ranged from wishing that original CE documents weren't required to be submitted, to having a fillable pdf form for reporting, as well as not using CE tracker for reporting. The agency has already created a fillable pdf form, with a link provided on page 3 of the newsletter, but also available on the agency's website.

Availability of information was also an issue. The majority of respondents also reported contacting the agency between 1-3 times per year. One of the major themes for improvement was the agency's website. That project will be started in August and should be completed in the Fall. The new website will have a new look and feel, as well as better access to information for ease of use. We are hopeful that the new site will help licensees and the public better find the information you are looking for. Once the site is completed, we will notify licensees and will welcome your feedback on the revised site. The full survey report that was submitted to the Board is available at the agency's website.

Other agency updates

The Oregon Board of Optometry has been working with a number of other small state agencies to identify a new computer system that will allow for online renewal, payment and information processing. As the project moves forward, we will keep you posted on proposed changes and their affects on your license renewal.

The agency has been testing credit card processing for license renewal as well. We anticipate being able to accept credit cards for the October renewal cycle. If we have an email address on file for you, we will email the renewal form with a link to the credit card processing site. You will need to complete and return the renewal form, the CE reporting form, and CE documents via U.S. mail. The payment can be processed online but your renewal will not be finalized until all payments and documents are received by the agency. If we don't have a current email address on file, you will not have access to the online payment system. The online payment system will accept both credit cards and echecks. Cards will not be accepted at the Board office.

“As a licensing board, our primary focus is patient safety. On the other hand, we also have the opportunity to provide high quality service to our licensees.”

- *Shelley Sneed,
Executive Director*

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CPR Certification Renewal

OAR 808-080-0040(1)(e) outlines the agency's requirements for CPR certification. At initial licensure, a hands-on course is required, but on going CPR certification can be completed at a live course or online. There is a \$50 fee for lapse in CPR certification. If you aren't sure when your CPR certification is due, please visit the agency's website. There is an alphabetical list of all licensees with the month and year that your CPR certification expires. Remember that after initial licensure, you can complete your CPR certification online. Be cautious and complete the CPR course early to avoid having a lapse and paying a fee and be sure to complete the certification designed for professional health care providers.

There have been requests from several licensees for a grace period for CPR lapses. Just a reminder—there is no fee for a lapse if the course is completed by the last day of the month that the course was completed. Remember that your due date is on the website.

Continuing Education Options

You have busy schedules balancing the requirements of your practice, work and patients. Here is an overview of the agency's continuing education (CE) requirements to help you meet them. If you have questions about if a course or activity qualifies, consult our website or contact Shelley Sneed or Cathy Boudreau at the office.

Basic requirements

Actively licensed Oregon Optometrists are required to complete 18 hours of training each year. Due to recent rule changes, there is no longer a requirement to take live CE training—training can be done online rather than in a classroom setting. Nine hours of the 18 required hours must be in TMOD (treatment and management of ocular disease) topics. A one hour Oregon law or optometric ethics course must be completed every other license year. Attendance of at least one hour at an OBO Board meeting qualifies for the one hour requirement. No more than 5 hours of surgical observation can be claimed to meet the 18 hour requirement. Up to 18 hours of CE credit can be carried over for the next reporting period. Credit can be requested for publication of articles and scientific papers, as well as for preparing and presenting CE courses. If presenting a CE course, licensees can earn 3 hours of credit for preparation and presentation time for every hour of CE presented, but only for the initial presentation of the materials. For publication of articles or scientific papers, you must publish a peer reviewed article, be a first or second author and can earn no more than two hours of credit. The article will be reviewed and approved by the Board's CE Chairperson. For more information on CE options, contact Shelley or Cathy at the Board office.

Approved courses

The agency's website includes a listing of CE courses reviewed and approved by the Board. COPE courses can also qualify for credit, depending on the category of course you complete. The new fillable CE reporting form on the agency's website allows you to fill in the courses as you go, save the form on your computer and gives the COPE approvals on the bottom. Here's a link to OBO's fillable CE reporting form: <http://www.oregonobo.org/>



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CE Approval

Continuing Education must be approved by the Board. If you've taken a course that wasn't pre-approved but meets the agency's rule requirements, you can submit the course for approval.

The agency's website has a link to the continuing education review requirements. The form includes the information that must be submitted for classroom or online presentations, as well as the information required to request approval for surgery clinic observation.

If you have published articles or scientific papers and would like to submit for CE approval, please use the guidelines for the classroom and online presentations. Under the time, give the estimate of time for writing the paper or article. Remember that you must be published in a peer reviewed journal and be a first or second author. If you are preparing a new CE presentation that qualifies for Oregon CE credit, the Board will note you are the presenter and will grant three hours of time for every hour of presentation time for both preparation and presentation time. Preparation time is only granted for the first presentation.

COPE courses approved for OBO CE are in the following categories:
Category A: CL, FV, GO and LV (qualifies for "Other" CE credit)
Category B: Ocular Disease & C: Related Systemic Disease (TMOD): GL, IS, LP, PO, RS, SP, AS, PS, NO, OP, PH, PD, SD
Category D: NOT approved: PM, PB and any Ethics/Jurisprudence (EJ) courses that are NOT approved by OBO

July 24th Board Meeting

The Board met on July 24th for their regular quarterly meeting. Four licensees attended and earned CE credit for their attendance. The Board reviewed the financial reports for the agency, discussed potential rule changes and also reviewed new injection courses. Rule changes will be proposed for these rules:

- Adding Board compensation rates to OAR 852-005-0015
- Update OAR 852-020-0035 to reflect the recent hydrocodone legislative change
- Develop rules for public records requests
- Research adopting rules for national rather than state background checks for new applicants or licensees under investigation.

In executive session, the board reviewed several new complaints and directed the Executive Director to send a letter related to case number 14-07-02. There was also correspondence from Walmart about accepting foreign prescriptions. The board directed the Executive Director to send Walmart a letter stating that they foreign prescriptions are acceptable if they are valid prescriptions and meet the requirements of the administrative rules.

Licensing Optometrists in Oregon since (DATE)

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