

## **CRUMPLER Robin \* OBNM**

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**From:** MEDICINE Naturopathic \* OBNM  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2024 4:36 PM  
**To:** MEDICINE Naturopathic \* OBNM  
**Subject:** HIGH IMPORTANCE: SEVERAL DRAFT RULES SUBMITTED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT INCL CHANGES TO THE CE APPROVAL PROCESS - PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS 2/12 @ 1PM

[The Board submitted several draft rules for public comment.](#)

The public comment period ends Feb. 12 @ 1pm. Please read all drafts in their entirety and email your comments to [naturopathic.medicine@obnm.oregon.gov](mailto:naturopathic.medicine@obnm.oregon.gov). The Board will discuss all comments received on all of the draft rules at the public board meeting at / about 1pm on Feb. 12. Meeting details will be posted on the Board website approximately one week prior to the meeting.

**SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES – Continuing Education Approval Process;** OAR 850-040-0215, 0220 and 0230. Changes to the OAR are necessary because of all, but not limited to, the following:

OBNM is not line with other regulatory agency approval processes; offering free and out of state approval  
Oregon is one of the only regulatory agencies in the country that approve CE programs. Additionally, the Board approves CE programs at no cost. Consequently, a significant number of out of state and for profit CE program providers use our approval process to avoid the costs and more rigorous requirements of going through the many CE accreditation services.

Oregon licensee attendance requirement did not effectively reduce the number program approval applications  
To ensure licensure fees and Board expenditures benefitted Oregon licensees, the Board implemented a rule two years ago requiring program providers submit proof of registration and attendance of licensed Oregon NDs for approval. Unfortunately, this did not result in the desired outcome of reducing the number of out of state and for profit program providers using our free approval process. Conversely, it created more confusion for providers and effectively increased the time and Board resources spent reviewing, and re-reviewing applications for program approval.

Inefficient use of resources; no significant benefit to Oregon licensees  
CE approval is an arduous and an expensive task for Board members and staff. The Board receives approximately 50 applications a month from CE program providers (up to 70 just prior to / during the renewal period). Out of state and profit driven program providers submit the majority of these applications. The vast majority of the applications list only 1-5 Oregon licensees. Additionally, many applications do not contain sufficient proof of registration and attendance as required by the rule. Continuing to be inundated with CE program applications, with the majority not serving a significant number of Oregon licensees, is simply irresponsible. Changing the current process is imperative for increased cost efficiency, economical use of staff and Board resources, and improved quality of a process and education.

Lack of specific program criteria and requirements leading to substandard CE program approval  
Current rules lack criteria and sufficient requirements for program approval. Accreditation agencies implement a rigorous, multistep, peer reviewed process, ensuring quality education for naturopathic physicians. The Board's approval process is substandard to accreditation agencies using industry-accepted criterion-based evaluation system. The five licensed members of the Board and Board staff do not have the resources or expertise to match their process or replicate their approval standards.

To address these issues, and numerous other challenges the Board faces with the current process, the following are some of the more substantial changes in the draft rules and the expected outcome:

- Increase in the number of approved accreditation services, providers, and agencies from four (4) to nine (9). Expected Outcome:
  - Reduce number of applications licensees must submit to the Board for approval
  - Provide licensees more options for approved programs
  - Increase quality of education
- Allows Oregon licensees that host a live, in-person, structured continuing education program, **in the State of Oregon, attended** by a minimum of ten (10) Oregon licensees, to apply for approval on behalf of the licensed attendees. Expected Outcome:
  - Reduces the burden on licensees by eliminating licensee requirement to submit an application for approval
  - Provide opportunities for Oregon licensees to learn from their colleagues about Oregon specific areas of practice
  - Allow Oregon licensee hosts to create education that is directly related to CE requirements set in rule
  - More efficient use of Board resources by reducing the number of approval applications from licensees for Board review.
- Limits entities eligible to apply for program approval to National University of Naturopathic Medicine (NUNM) and Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP)
  - Reduce the number of CE program applications for Board review that do not benefit the Oregon licensees
  - Ensure Board resources are spent on approving program applications that serve a significant number of Oregon licensees
  - Close the loophole which allows out of state and for profit program providers from using the free Board approval process to the detriment of licensees, Board members and staff
  - Long term improved education for all naturopathic physicians in the North America, due to out of state / profit driven providers using accreditation agencies for approval.
- Sets program criteria per required CE subject areas; pharmacology; professional ethics, boundaries, and communication; suicide prevention, cultural competency, and pain management. Requires licensee to submit applications for course approval no later than 30 calendar days after the completion of the activity. Expected Outcome:
  - Increase transparency of what is required for licensee application approval
  - Reduce the number of licensee re-submissions for Board review
  - Reduce the uptick in number of approval applications sent to the Board during the renewal period.
  - Increase quality of education due to set criteria for approval
- Sets program criteria and limitations on hours permitted for licensee self-directed activities. Requires licensee to submit applications for approval of self-directed activity no later than 30 calendar days after the completion of the activity. Expected Outcome:
  - Increased transparency of what is required for licensee application approval
  - Reduce the number of licensee submissions for Board review
  - Reduce the uptick in volume of applications received in the renewal period.
  - Increase breadth and quality of education required.

**CLARIFICATION – CE Required for Injection IV Therapy, Provider Requirements, 850-040-0240; Moves One-time CE requirements to Division 40**

Changes to 850-040-0240 CE Required for Injection IV Therapy, Provider Requirements, are primarily “housekeeping.” IMPORTANT NOTE- no action is required from licensees who previously submitted their CE education report per the rule. This rule clarifies requirements moving forward.

Minor / substantive changes:

- Removes education requirements in Subsection 1(a) Subcutaneous, Intramuscular, Intravenous Injection: Prior to administering or supervising the administration of injections in this section, Licensee must submit to the Board proof of completion of six (6) hours of Board approved education focused on anatomy, palpation, injection technique, aseptic / sterile technique as follows:
  - A. Three (3) hours didactic education
  - B. Three (3) hours practical education
- Removes requirement to complete lower body and lower body extremity training, prior to engaging in training for upper body and upper body extremity training.
- Requires passage of Parenteral Medicine NPLEX elective exam prior to administering IV therapy
- Moves the rule from Division 60 – Prescribing Authority to Division 40 – Continuing Education

**DIVISION CHANGE – Moves One-time Continuing Education Required Prior to Administering or Supervising the Administration of IV and Injectable Ketamine, to Division 40, 850-040-0250**

OAR 850-040-0250 – Moves Injectable Ketamine CE requirements from Division 60 – Prescribing Authority to Division 40 – Continuing Education. No substantive changes in the rule, edits for clarification only. IMPORTANT NOTE- no action is required from licensees who previously submitted their CE education report per the rule. This rule clarifies requirements moving forward.

**Board staff is primarily working remotely, therefore, email is the most efficient mode of communication at this time. We appreciate your patience. [Naturopathic.Medicine@obnm.oregon.gov](mailto:Naturopathic.Medicine@obnm.oregon.gov)**

**Please also take a moment to fill out the OBNM customer satisfaction [survey](#).**

**In Health;**

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