

# Physician CME Requirements

**Alabama:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor will be one calendar year, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. A licensee is required to complete 25 hours of AMA PRA Category I credits within this calendar year.

If initially licensed in the calendar year, the licensee is exempt from CME requirements.

**Alaska:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, and a licensee must complete 50 CME hours in AMA Category I, AOA Category I or II, a current Physician's Recognition Award, or a current certification by a specialty board recognized by the AMA or AOA, or participation in an approved residency/fellowship program.

**Arizona:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor will be two years, and expires on the licensee's birthday. A licensee is required to complete 40 credit hours within the two years. Category 1 or Category 2 credits will be accepted if approved by the AMA or AOA. Excess hours will not carry over to the next cycle.

**Arkansas:** The license cycle will be one year, expiring in the birth month of the licensee each year. The licensee must hold a current AMA Physician's Recognition Award or complete 20 hours of CME credit each year approved by the AMA, AOA, or AAFP. Of the 20 hours, 50% must be Category I credit in the physician's primary area of practice.

**California:** The license cycle for a medical doctor is two years, and a licensee must complete 50 hours of Category I CME approved by the AMA or prescribed credit approved by the AAFP within that two year period. As a one-time requirement, most Medical Doctors are required to complete 12 hours of CME on pain management and the appropriate care and treatment of the terminally ill (Pathologists and Radiologists are exempt from this requirement). Physicians must complete the 12 mandated hours by their second license renewal date or within four years, whichever comes first, and the 12 required hours would count toward the 50 hours of approved CME each physician is required to complete during each biennial renewal cycle.

If renewing for the first time and a physician was initially licensed 13 months or less from license expiration date, 25 CME hours will be required.

California law requires that general internists and family physicians who have a patient population of which over 25 percent are 65 years of age or older, complete at least 20 percent of their mandatory CME in the field of geriatric medicine.

All other physicians are encouraged to take a course in geriatric medicine, including geriatric pharmacology, as part of their mandatory CME.

**Colorado:** There are no continuing education requirements for Medical Doctors.

**Connecticut:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is every two years, and a licensee must complete 50 hours of CME credit during that time period. Continuing medical education shall be in an area of the physician's practice, and during the 1<sup>st</sup> renewal cycle as well as every six years thereafter, the licensee shall complete at least 1 hour in the following topics: (a) infectious diseases, including but not limited to

HIV/AIDS, (b) risk management, (c) sexual assault, (d) domestic violence, (e) cultural competency, and (f) behavioral health.

Qualifying continuing medical education activities include, but are not limited to, courses offered or approved by the American Medical Association ([AMA](#)), American Osteopathic Association ([AOA](#)), Connecticut Hospital Association ([CHA](#)), Connecticut State Medical Society ([CSMS](#)), county medical societies ([CMSs](#)) or equivalent organizations in other jurisdictions, educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other health care institution or courses offered by a regionally accredited academic institution or a state or local health department.

A licensee applying for license renewal for the first time is exempt from the continuing medical education requirements until the licensee's next registration period. Registration period means the one-year period for which a license has been renewed.

**Delaware:** The license cycle for Medical Doctors is every two years, expiring on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the odd years. The licensee must complete 40 hours of CME credit and it must be Category I credit approved by either the AMA or AOA.

For first time renewals, if the Medical Doctor has been licensed for less than 1 year, he or she is exempt from CME requirements. If licensed for over 1 year, he or she must complete 20 hours of CME credit.

**District of Columbia:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, from January 1<sup>st</sup> of each odd year to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each even year. A licensee must complete 50 hours of AMA PRA Category I CME hours, of which 3 hours must be in HIV/AIDS.

For first time renewal, there are no CME requirements.

**Florida:** The license cycle for Medical Doctors is two years, and spans from February 1<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>. There are two groups of Medical Doctors, so some will renew on the odd years and some on the even. The licensee must complete 40 hours of CME credit comprised of 2 hours in Prevention of Medical Errors and 38 General hours. Every third cycle, the licensee must complete 2 hours of Domestic Violence which is included in the 40 hours. All CME must be AMA PRA Category 1 Credit except for domestic violence and prevention of medical errors. Domestic violence and prevention of medical errors courses offered by any state or federal government agency or professional association, including any provider of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit are acceptable.

For first time renewals, licensees are exempt from completing General hours, and must only complete 2 hours in Prevention of Medical Errors and 1 hour of HIV/AIDS.

**Georgia:** The license cycle is every two years, and will expire on the last day of the licensee's birth month. He or she must be enrolled in a full-time residency/fellowship accredited by the ACGME or AOA OR complete 40 hours of CME credit during the cycle. The Board will accept Category 1 credits approved by AMA, AOA, AAFP, ACOG, and ACEP.

Medical Doctors who do not hold a certification in pain management or palliative medicine but whose opioid pain management patients comprise 50% or more of their patient population must demonstrate competence by completing 20 (twenty) hours of CME credit pertaining to pain management or palliative

medicine--Such CME must be an AMA/AOA PRA Category I CME, a board approved CME program, or any federally approved CME and may be used towards the 40 hours of required CME.

For first time renewals, there are no CME requirements.

**Hawaii:** The license cycle is two years, and expires on January 31<sup>st</sup> of the even years. The licensee may fulfill the CME requirements for renewal through one of the following:

1. Completing, in the two years prior to the license expiration date, an ACGME accredited residency or fellowship program;
2. Completing, in the two years prior to the license expiration date, a full academic year of education in a medically related field leading to an advanced degree other than M.D.;
3. Meeting the CME requirements of a medical society to which the physician belongs;
4. Meeting the CME requirements of an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) specialty board with which the physician is certified;
5. Having a current American Medical Association Physician Recognition Award (PRA); or
6. Obtaining 40 Category I CME hours (or 20 category 1 CME hours if renewing the license for the first time) during the two years prior to the license expiration date.

**Idaho:** The license cycle is every two years, and the Medical Doctor must complete 40 hours of CME credit, all of which must be Category I CME approved by the ACCME or AOA.

**Illinois:** The license cycle is every 3 years, and the cycle expires on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The licensee must complete 150 hours of CME credit that will include a minimum of 60 hours of CME credit earned through formal CME programs and no more than 90 hours of CME credit earned through informal programs or activities.

There are no CME requirements for first time renewals.

**Indiana:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is every two years, expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the odd years. There are no CME requirements for renewal.

**Iowa:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is every two years. The licensee must complete 40 hours of Category I CME credit approved by the AMA, ACOG, or AAFP. A licensee who regularly provides primary health care to adults and/or children must include 2 hours of training on the identification and reporting of abuse in dependent adults and/or children. The licensee is also required to complete 2 hours of Category 1 credits for chronic pain management and 2 hours of Category 1 credits for end-of-life care every five years. Up to 20 hours of Category I credit may be carried over from the previous license cycle.

For first time renewals, the required hours will be pro-rated based on the number of months an individual has been licensed.

**Kansas:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor will be one year and expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. A Medical Doctor may choose to renew in one of the following three ways:

1. 50 hours of CME credit within the 12 months preceding the license expiration date (may choose to complete within 18 months), of which at least 20 hours must be Category I and no more than 30 may be Category II; or
2. 100 hours of CME credit within the 24 months preceding the license expiration date (may choose to complete within 30 months), of which at least 40 hours must be Category I and no more than 60 may be Category II; or
3. 150 hours of CME credit within the 36 month preceding the license expiration date (may choose to complete within 42 months), of which 60 credits must be Category I and no more than 90 may be Category II.

**Kentucky:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is three years and spans from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> (i.e current cycle is from 1/1/12 to 12/31/14). The licensee must complete 60 hours of CME credit, of which 30 must be Category I credit approved by the ACCME or AOA. Of the remaining 30 hours, a minimum of 2 hours in HIV/AIDS approved by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will be required every ten years.

As of July 1, 1996, all primary care physicians are required to complete a 3 hour course in Domestic Violence within 3 years of being licensed. This 3 hour course may be taken as a part of the standard 60 hour requirement and must be taken from a provider approved by the Kentucky Medical Association.

Physicians who are authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances shall complete 4.5 hours of Category I CME credit relating to the use of KASPER, pain management, addiction disorders, or a combination of 2 or more of those subjects.

If licensed in the first year of the cycle, the full 60 hours are required. If licensed in the second year of the cycle, the licensee must complete 40 hours, of which 20 must be Category I credit approved by the ACCME or AOA. If licensed in the third year of the cycle, the licensee must complete 20 hours, of which 10 must be Category I credit approved by the ACCME or AOA.

**Louisiana:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor will be one year, and a licensee must fulfill the renewal requirements in one of the following ways:

1. complete 20 hours of Category I CME credit approved by the AMA, AOA, ACOG, or AAFP
2. currently enrolled in a residency training program approved by the Board
3. certified or recertified within the past year by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties or a specialty board recognized by the AOA

All those licensees renewing for the first time will be exempt from CME requirements, but will be required to attend an orientation program sponsored and/or approved by the Board.

**Maine:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor will be every two years, and will expire on the last day of the licensee's birth month—expiring in the even years if the licensee was born in an even year and vice versa for odd years. A licensee must complete 100 hours of CME credit, of which 40 must be AMA Category I credit, and no more than 60 hours may be Category II.

For first time renewal, a licensee's CME requirements will be prorated.

**Maryland:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is every two years, expiring on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A licensee must complete 50 AMA Category I CME hours.

For first time renewal, a licensee is exempt from the CME requirements, but must complete an online New Physician Orientation Program prior to renewal.

**Massachusetts:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, and the licensee must complete 100 CME hours. Of the 100 hours, at least 40 must be Category I and no more than 60 may be Category II credits. He or she must also include 10 hours in Risk Management, of which at least 4 must be Category I; two credits, either Category I or II, are required in review of Board regulations via study of 243 CMR 1.00 through 3.00; it is also mandatory to complete 2 credits, either Category I or II, in the study of end-of-life care and these hours may be used towards the Risk Management requirement.

If a licensee can prescribe controlled substances, he or she must complete 3 credits in Pain Management Training and these hours may be used towards the Risk Management requirement.

Category I credits will be accepted if approved by the AMA, AOA, or AAFP. Category II credits will be accepted if they are approved by the AMA or AOA.

For first time renewal, a licensee is exempt from CME requirements if the renewal cycle is less than 1 year. If the cycle is more than 1 year but less than the full 2, the licensee will be required to complete half of the CME requirements for renewal.

**Michigan:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is three years, and the cycle expires January 31<sup>st</sup>. A licensee must complete 150 hours of CME credit, of which 75 must be either Category I (accredited) or Category 6 (residency).

The remaining hours, if not completed as Category 1 or 6, may be completed as Category 2 (maximum 36 hours), Category 3 (maximum 48 hours), Category 4 (maximum 48 hours), Category 5 (maximum 36 hours).

**Minnesota:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is three years, and licensees must complete 75 hours of Category I CME credit approved by the ACCME or AOA.

**Mississippi:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years and expires June 30<sup>th</sup> of the even years. A licensee must complete 40 hours of Category I CME credit approved by the AMA, AAFP, AOA, ACOG, or CPME. If the licensee has an active DEA certificate, 5 of the hours must be related to the prescribing of medications with an emphasis on controlled substances.

For first time renewal, the licensee is exempt from the CME requirements.

**Missouri:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, expiring December 31<sup>st</sup> of the odd years. A licensee must complete 50 hours of CME credit as AMA Category I, AOA Category I-A or 2-A, or prescribed credit by the American Academy of Family Practice OR 40 hours of AMA PRA Category I credit if each course, seminar or activity includes a post-test of the material covered in the 40 CME credits.

For first time renewal, the licensee is exempt from completing CME credit hours.

**Montana:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years and expires on March 31<sup>st</sup>. There are no CME requirements for licensees.

**Nebraska:** The license cycle is 2 years and expires October 1<sup>st</sup> of the even years. A licensee must complete one of the following to renew:

1. 50 hours of Category I CME approved by the ACCME or AOA—the Board will also recognize one year of participation in an approved graduate medical education program.
2. The AMA's Physician's Recognition Award or the AOA CME Certification within the 24 months immediately preceding the license expiration date

The licensee may carry over up to 25 hours of Category I credit from the previous cycle to fulfill the current cycle's 50 hour requirement.

**Nevada:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is 2 years, spanning from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> on the odd years. A licensee must complete 40 hours—comprised of 2 hours of Medical Ethics, 20 hours in scope of practice, and 18 general AMA Category I hours. These same requirements will apply if a licensee is renewing for the first time and was licensed in the first 6 months of the cycle (i.e. July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>).

If initially licensed in the second 6 months of the cycle (January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014), they must complete 30 hours—comprised of 2 hours of Medical Ethics, 15 hours in scope of practice, and 13 general AMA Category I hours.

If initially licensed in the third 6 months of the cycle (July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014), they must complete 20 hours—comprised of 2 hours of Medical Ethics, 10 in scope of practice, and 8 general AMA Category I hours.

If initially licensed in the fourth 6 months of the cycle (January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015), they must complete 10 hours—comprised of 2 hours in Medical Ethics, 5 scope of practice, and 3 general AMA Category I hours.

**New Hampshire:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>. A licensee must complete 100 hours of CME, of which at least 40 must be AMA PRA Category I credits and no more than 60 may be Category II or the hours must meet the requirements of the New Hampshire Osteopathic Association.

If the licensee passes an American Specialty Board examination within the two years prior to the license expiration date, the Board will not require the licensee to complete separate CME hours.

**New Jersey:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the odd years. A licensee must complete 100 CME hours, of which at least 40 must be Category I credit and no more than 60 may be Category II—hours approved by the AMA or AOA will be recognized.

For first time renewal, a licensee may be exempt from CME requirements if they recently graduated from an accredited training program. Regardless of CME exemption, each new licensee must

successfully complete an orientation course presented or approved by the Board within 24 months of becoming licensed.

As of June 30, 2007, and during every consecutive three-year period thereafter, a licensee who is credentialed by a hospital or the Board to provide (a) general anesthesia services must complete at least 60 AMA PRA Category I or AOA approved hours in anesthesia. (b) If the licensee is credentialed to provide regional anesthesia, they must complete at least 8 AMA PRA Category I or AOA approved hours in anesthesia exclusively or in anesthesia as it related to the physician's scope of practice. (c) If the licensee is credentialed to provide conscious sedation, they must complete at least 8 AMA PRA Category I or II or AOA approved hours exclusively in conscious sedation or in anesthesia as it relates to the physician's scope of practice.

**New Mexico:** A license cycle for Medical Doctors is three years and spans from July 1 to June 30. A licensee must complete 75 hours of CME credit or the AMA Physician's Recognition Award, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) certificate of continuing education, or certification by an American Board of Medical Specialties approved specialty Board.

Those physicians who hold a DEA registration must complete 5 hours of CME credit related to the prescribing of controlled substances each cycle. These hours are included in the 75 total required.

For first time renewal, there are no CME requirements.

**New York:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, and there are no CME requirements.

**North Carolina:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is three years, and the license cycle will begin on the physician's first birthday after their initial license date.

A licensee will fulfill the CME requirements if they are currently enrolled in an ACGME accredited graduate medical education program or by completing 60 hours of Category I CME approved by the AMA, AOA, ABMS, or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

There are no CME requirements for the first renewal cycle (i.e. between initial license date and birthdate).

**North Dakota:** The license cycle expires annually on the Physician's birthday, but the deadline for CME follows a three-year cycle which is assigned based on a sorting of the alphabet.

A licensee must complete 60 hours of AMA Category I CME every three years. If renewing for the first time, a licensee may be exempt from CME requirements entirely, or the Board may assign a pro-rated number of hours to complete.

**Ohio:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, and the expiration date will be dictated by the first letter of the licensee's last name (i.e. if the last name begins with "A or B" the licensee will renew by April 1<sup>st</sup> every odd year.) The licensee must complete 100 hours of CME credit approved by the Ohio State Medical Association, of which at least 40 must be Category I and no more than 60 may be Category II.

Physicians who own or operate pain management clinics must complete 20 hours of Category I CME credit in pain management every cycle, including at least 2 hours addressing the potential of addiction.

For first time renewal, a licensee's required hours will be prorated based on the number of months for which the individual has been licensed.

**Oklahoma:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is three years, and a licensee will fulfill their requirements in one of the following ways:

1. Complete 60 hours of Category I CME credit approved by the AMA, AOA, or AAFP.
2. hold a current AMA Physician's Recognition Award
3. certification by a specialty board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)
4. participate in residency/fellowship training (50 hours of CME credit recognized per year of training)

For first time renewal, a licensee will be required to report starting three years from the date the license was granted.

**Oregon:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the odd years. A licensee must either participate in ongoing re-certification by an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) board, the American Osteopathic Association's Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (AOA-BOS), the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine (ABPOPPM), the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), or the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) **OR** complete 60 hours of CME credit. A licensee will be required to complete a 1 hour Pain Management course specific to Oregon by the Pain Management Commission of the Department of Human Services and at least 6 hours of CME credit in the subjects of pain management and/or the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients.

Physicians who perform Level II office-based surgical procedures are required to complete 50 hours of CME credit relevant to this practice.

If initially licensed in the second half of the biennium, the licensee will be required to complete 30 hours of CME credit.

**Pennsylvania:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years, and a licensee must complete 100 hours of CME Credit. Of the 100 hours, at least 20 must be completed as AMA PRA Category I credit. The Medical Doctor is also required to include at least 12 hours of credit in patient safety or risk management and this may be completed as AMA PRA Category I or 2. The remaining hours may be completed as AMA PRA Category I or 2.

For first time renewal, a licensee will be exempt from CME requirements.

**Rhode Island:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years and expires on June 1<sup>st</sup> of the even years. A licensee must complete 40 hours of AMA PRA Category I credit or AOA Category I-A credit. The 40 hours must include 2 hours from a list of topics related to current public health needs which will be available as of July 1<sup>st</sup> in each even year.



**South Carolina:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the even years. To satisfy the requirements for renewal of a license, a physicians must:

1. A licensee must complete 40 hours of Category I CME approved by the AOA or AMA, of which 30 must be directly related to the physician's area of practice;
2. Maintain certification by a national specialty Board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the AOA;
3. Complete a residency/fellowship program in Medicine approved by the ACCME or the AOA;
4. Pass the Special Purpose Examination or Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable Purpose Examination; or
5. Successfully complete a clinical skills assessment program approved by the Board.

For first time renewals, the licensee will be exempt from CME requirements.

**South Dakota:** There are no CME requirements for Medical Doctors.

**Tennessee:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is two years and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. A licensee must complete 40 hours of CME credit and at least 1 hour must be relevant to prescribing practices.

For first time renewals, there are no CME requirements.

**Texas:** The license cycle for a Medical Doctor is one year and expires on one of 4 dates which will be set by the Board at the time of licensure—February 28<sup>th</sup>, May 31<sup>st</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>, or November 30<sup>th</sup>. Even numbered licenses will expire in the even years and the odd numbered licenses in the odd years. The physician must complete their continuing education requirement either through

1. certification by a specialty board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties;
2. certification by the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists; or
3. completion of 24 hours of CME credit each year, at least half of which must be in formal courses—AMA PRA Category I, AOA Category I-A, or AAFP prescribed credit. Of the 24 hours required, at least 2 must be in the study of medical ethics/and or professional responsibility. No more than 48 hours of excess CME credit may be carried over to the following cycle.

In addition, physicians who practice in a pain clinic must complete 10 hours of CME credit in pain management each year.

For first time renewal, a licensee will be exempt from CME requirements.

**Utah:** The license cycle is two years, and expires on January 31<sup>st</sup> of the even years. A licensee must complete 40 hours of CME credit. At least 34 hour must be in Category I approved by the ACCME and no more than 6 hours may come from the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

For first time renewal, a licensee's CME requirements will be pro-rated based on when they became licensed.

**Vermont:** The license cycle is two years and expires November 30<sup>th</sup> of the even years. A licensee must complete 30 hours of AMA PRA Category I CME credit, of which 1 hour must be in Hospice, Palliative

Care, and Pain Management. If the licensee prescribes controlled substances, he or she is also required to complete 1 hour in Prescribing Controlled Substances.

If a Medical Doctor is licensed for less than one year, there are no CME requirements. If licensed for more than one year but less than two, the licensee must complete 15 AMA PA Category I CME hours including the required subject areas.

**Virginia:** The license cycle is two years and expires on the last day of the licensee's birth month. A licensee must complete 60 hours of CME credit, of which 30 must be Type 1 activities or offered by an accredited sponsor or organization sanctioned by the profession. No more than 30 hours may be Type 2 activities or courses.

For first time renewal, there are no CME requirements.

**Washington:** The license cycle is 4 years, and a licensee must complete 200 CME hours. The licensee may take all 200 hours in Category I, up to 80 hours in Category II, up to 80 hours in Category III, up to 80 hours in Category IV, and up to 80 hours in Category V. In lieu of the CME credit hours, the Board will also recognize a current Physician's Recognition Award from the AMA or a current certification by any specialty Board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

**West Virginia:** The license cycle is two years. A licensee must be certified by a specialty board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties, or they must complete 50 hours of Category I CME credit approved by the AMA or AAFP. As of July 1, 2008, at least 30 of the hours must be in the Medical Doctor's area(s) of specialty.

Beginning May 1, 2014, unless a physician completes the required documentation stating they have not prescribed or administered controlled substances at any point throughout the cycle, the licensee will be required to complete 3 hours in drug diversion/controlled substances training as a part of the 50 hours required.

**Wisconsin:** The license cycle is 2 years and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the odd years—renewal deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. A licensee must complete 30 hours of Category I CME credit approved by the AMA or AOA.

**Wyoming:** The license cycle is three years, and a licensee must complete 60 CME credit hours. The Board will recognize credit that is AMA-approved Category I or II, AOA-approved CME, a current Physician's Recognition Award, or a current certification by a specialty board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

For first time renewal, there are no CME requirements.