

Continuing Education Requirements for Florida Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians

General Continuing Education Requirements

Florida licensed pharmacists are required to obtain thirty (30) hours of approved courses of continued professional pharmaceutical education the 24 month period prior to the expiration date of the license. For example approved continuing education courses will need to be completed between **October 1, 2015** and **September 30, 2017** before the "PS" license expires on **September 30, 2017**. (64B16-26.103) Ten (10) of the thirty (30) hours of approved courses of continued professional pharmaceutical education must be LIVE continuing education hours. LIVE continuing education is defined as either a live seminar, a live video teleconference, or through an interactive computer based application. (64B16-26.103)

Medication Error Continuing Education Requirements

As a part of the biennial renewal, pharmacists are required to complete a two (2) hour Florida Board of Pharmacy approved course on Medication Errors. The course must contain the following components: (a) root-cause analysis; (b) error reduction and prevention; (c) patient safety. The two-hour program may be applied towards the thirty-hour continuing education requirement. (64B16-26.103)

Validation of Prescriptions for Controlled Substances Requirements

As a part of the biennial renewal, pharmacists are required to complete a two (2) hour Florida Board of Pharmacy approved course on Validation of Controlled Substance Prescriptions. The course must contain the following components: (a) Ensuring access to controlled substances for all patients with a valid prescription; (b) Use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program's Database; (c) Assessment of prescriptions for appropriate therapeutic value; (d) Detection of prescriptions not based on a legitimate medical purpose; and (e) The laws and rules related to the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.

The two-hour program may be applied towards the thirty-hour continuing education requirement. (64B16-27.831 F.A.C.)

HIV/AIDS Continuing Education Requirements

Effective July 1, 2006, applicants for licensure are no longer required by Chapter 456, FS, to show proof of a course on HIV/AIDS as part of the initial licensure process. You will, however, be required by Chapter 456, FS, to take an HIV/AIDS course approved by the board for your first renewal. This includes pharmacy technicians as well. **As of July 1, 2006 licensees will no longer be required by Chapter 456, FS, to take an HIV/AIDS course for each renewal.**

Consultant Re-Certification Continuing Education Requirements

Florida licensed consultant pharmacists must complete no less than 24 hours of Board approved consultant continuing education (see rule 64B16-26.302) within the 24 month period prior to the expiration date of the consultant license (see 64B16-26.103). For example Florida approved consultant CE programs must be completed between **January 1, 2017** and **December 31, 2018** for consultant licenses that expires **December 31, 2018**. Course content for consultant re-certification programs must consist of at least three (3) hours of training in specified subjects. Duplicated courses are not acceptable. (see rule 64B16-26.302).

Ordering and Evaluation of Laboratory Tests

Florida Consultant pharmacists and pharmacists holding the Doctor of Pharmacy degree that wish to order and evaluate laboratory tests and who are practicing under the provisions of Florida Statute 465.0125* are required to complete at least a three (3) hour initial certification course and at least a one (1) hour recertification course. Successful completion of the course will certify the pharmacist for this practice for two (2) years from the date of completion. (64B16-26.320)

*Florida Statute 465.0125 defines practice settings as nursing homes or licensed home health agencies for Consultant Pharmacists and only licensed home health agencies for the Doctor of Pharmacy.

Nuclear Pharmacy Continuing Education Requirements

Florida Nuclear Pharmacists must complete no less than twenty-four (24) additional hours of coursework each two year period designed to provide in-depth treatment of nuclear pharmacy practice. (64B16-26.304)

Immunizing Pharmacists

Pharmacists wishing to provide immunizations must take a Board approved immunization training program. The program must be at least 20 hours in length and include a review of immunization laws and CPR training. (64B16-26.1031). During the 2012 legislative session, House bill 509 passed that created a new requirement for pharmacists who wish to maintain their immunization registry. Those requirements include the following: The 3 hour CE program must be done once each biennial renewal period ending **September 30** and must be offered by a Florida statewide professional association of physicians; The statewide association must be accredited to provide AMA PRA Category I CME; The program must cover the safe and effective administration of vaccines and epinephrine auto-injection; A distance learning format allowed for the 3 hour CE program; The 3 hours required to meet immunization "recertification" can be included within the 30 hour CE biennial requirement for pharmacists; Failure to get the recertification CE will result in the pharmacist's immunization registry being revoked.

Registered Pharmacy Technician

Beginning January 1, 2011 technicians interested in working in Florida permitted pharmacies will need to complete a Florida Board of Pharmacy approved training program. Upon successful completion of that program technicians can then submit an application to the Board for full registration status. Registered pharmacy technicians must complete 20 hours of appropriate CE (4 hours live, 2 hours med errors and 1 hour HIV for initial renewal) by **December 31, 2018**. See rule 64B16-26.355 and Florida Statutes 465.014.

Credit for any Continuing Education Course may not be used more than once in any given year.

The above information should only be used as a guide and cannot be considered advice. This information is subject to change