



**REPORT OF THE 2006
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
CONTINUING MEDICAL
EDUCATION AUDIT**

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BOARD OF MEDICINE**

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| s.458.347(7)(c)(d) F.S. | |
| 64B8-30.005 F.A.C. | |

Introduction

As part of the biennial license renewal requirement, Physician Assistants (PA's) are required to complete 100 hours of CME or provide proof of current certification with the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). The Board can accept the current NCCPA certification in lieu of the 100 hours because, to maintain current NCCPA certification, Physician Assistants must log no less than 100 hours of CME. Additionally, and prior to the new law changes to the CME requirement, PA's must complete a one-hour course in category 1, HIV/AIDS, a one-hour course in Domestic Violence and a two-hour course in Preventing Medical Errors. These "core" CME courses are inclusive of the 100 hours. Further, PA's with prescribing privileges must complete 10 hours of CME in the specialty area of his or her supervising physician(s).

The Board of Medicine conducts an audit following each renewal to confirm compliance with all of the license renewal requirements. For this audit, a random sampling of the licensee renewal population was done so that each county was represented in the audit. The purpose of this sampling is to provide a more accurate representation of the Physician Assistant population and therefore meets the legislative mandated 100% audit. The number of Physician Assistants that renewed their license during the 2006 biennium was approximately 4313. Because the Board audited only licensees with an active license, the sampling provided the names of 791 licensees to audit.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION REPORT SUMMARY

The random audit of 791 Physician Assistants that renewed their license on or before January 31, 2006, reflects the following:

- 422 Physician Assistants were able to document their compliance with the CME requirement, 53= %
- 347 Physician Assistants had discrepancies, = 44%
- 22 Physician Assistants did not respond to the audit even after a follow up letter was sent, = .03%

Discrepancies include:

- CME courses completed outside of the requisite timeframe of February 1, 2004 through January 31, 2006.
- Failure to document required amount of CME course hours or NCCPA certification.
- Prescribing Physician Assistants who were unable to document required amount of CME courses in the specialty area of the supervising physician(s).

The audit revealed that, of the total number of licensees audited, 422 were able to provide proof of compliance with all of the renewal requirements, 347 licensees were not able to document compliance and 22 licensees did not respond to the audit.

The audit also revealed that the majority of the discrepancies were because the licensee did not complete the HIV/AIDS, Domestic Violence and Preventing Medical Errors courses during the required timeframe of February 1, 2004 through January 31, 2006.

Annual CME Comparative Report

This report reflects the statistical report of licensees in compliance with the Continuing Medical Education requirements for licensure renewals.

| 2000-2002 | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| No. of Licensees Audited | 120 |
| Licensees in Compliance | 30% |
| Discrepancies | 68% |
| Did not Respond | 2% |

| 2002-2004 | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| No. of Licensees Audited | 100 |
| Licensees in Compliance | 77% |
| Discrepancies | 21% |
| Did not Respond | 2% |

| 2004-2006 | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| No. of Licensees Audited | 791 |
| Licensees in Compliance | 53% |
| Discrepancies | 44% |
| Did not Respond | 3% |

Findings: The audit revealed that the majority of discrepancies were due to the CME being completed outside of the required timeframe; February 1, of the even year through January 31, of the next even year.

APPENDIX

s. 458.347, Florida Statutes

(7) Physician Assistant Licensure

(c) The license must be renewed biennially. Each renewal must include:

1. A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards.
2. A sworn statement of no felony convictions in the previous 2 years.

(d) Each licensed physician assistant shall biennially complete 100 hours of continuing medical education or shall hold a current certificate issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

Florida Administrative Code

64B8-30.005 Physician Assistant Licensure Renewal

(1) A Physician Assistant must renew his licensure on a biennial basis. Upon request by the Board or Department, the licensee must submit satisfactory documentation of compliance with the requirements set forth below.

(2) Requirements for Renewal.

(a) Completion of the Physician Assistant licensure renewal application on the appropriate form approved by the Council and Boards and provided by the Department.

(b) Submission of a signed, sworn statement of no felony convictions in the previous two years.

(c) Submission of a notarized written statement attesting to completion of 100 hours of Continuing Medical Education in the previous two years. If requested by the Council, the Physician Assistant must submit a notarized copy of a current license issued by the National Commission on Licensure of Physician Assistants or must be able to produce evidence that the 100 CME hours have been approved by the American Academy of Physician Assistants and logged with either the American Academy of Physician Assistants or the National Commission of Licensure of Physician Assistants for the relevant biennium.

(d) For all licensees no more and no less than one hour shall consist of training in domestic violence which includes information on the number of patients in that professional's practice who are likely to be victims of domestic violence and the number who are likely to be perpetrators of domestic violence, screening procedures for determining whether a patient has any history of being either a victim or a perpetrator of domestic violence, and instruction on how to provide such patients with information on, or how to refer such patients to, resources in the local community, such as domestic violence centers and other advocacy groups, that provide legal aid, shelter, victim counseling, batterer counseling, or child protection services, and which is approved by any state or federal government agency, or nationally affiliated professional association, or any provider of Category I or II American Medical Association Continuing Medical Education. Home study courses approved by the above agencies will be acceptable.

(e) For all licensees one hour of Category I American Medical Association Continuing Medical Education which includes the topics of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; the modes of transmission, including transmission from healthcare worker to

patient and patient to healthcare worker; infection control procedures, including universal precautions; epidemiology of the disease; related infections including TB; clinical management; prevention; and current Florida law on AIDS and its impact on testing, confidentiality of test results, and treatment of patients. Any hours of said CME may also be counted toward the CME license renewal requirement. In order for a course to count as meeting this requirement, licensees practicing in Florida must clearly demonstrate that the course includes Florida law on HIV/AIDS and its impact on testing, confidentiality of test results, and treatment of patients. Only Category I hours shall be accepted.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (d) and (e), above, a physician assistant may complete continuing education on end-of-life care and palliative health care in lieu of continuing education in HIV/AIDS or domestic violence, if that physician assistant has completed the HIV/AIDS or domestic violence continuing education in the immediately preceding biennium. This allows for end-of-life care and palliative health care continuing education to substitute for HIV/AIDS or domestic violence continuing education in alternate biennia.

(g) Completion of two hours of continuing medical education relating to prevention of medical errors which includes a study of root cause analysis, error reduction and prevention, and patient safety, and which is approved by any state or federal government agency, or nationally affiliated professional association, or any provider of Category I or II American Medical Association Continuing Medical Education. One hour of a two hour course which is provided by a facility licensed pursuant to Chapter 395, F.S., for its employees may be used to partially meet this requirement.

(3) Renewal of Licensure as a Prescribing Physician Assistant. In addition to the requirements of subsection (2) above, a prescribing physician assistant shall attest to having completed a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education in the specialty area(s) of the supervising physician(s), during the previous 2 years. These hours may be utilized to meet the general continuing education requirement.