

## SUBCHAPTER 32R – CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIREMENTS

### SECTION .0100 – CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIREMENTS

#### 21 NCAC 32R.0101 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIRED

(a) Continuing Medical Education (CME) is defined as education, training and activities to increase knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of healthcare to the public. The purpose of CME is to maintain, develop, or improve the physician's knowledge, skills, professional performance and relationships which physicians use to provide services for their patients, their practice, the public, or the profession.

(b) Each person licensed to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina shall complete at least 60 hours of Category 1 CME relevant to the physician's current or intended specialty or area of practice every three years.

(c) The three year period described in Paragraph (b) of this Rule begins on the physician's first birthday following initial licensure.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-14(a)(15);  
Eff. January 1, 2000;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001.*

#### 21 NCAC 32R.0102 APPROVED CATEGORIES OF CME

(a) Category 1 CME providers are:

- (1) Institutions or organizations accredited by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and reciprocating organizations;
- (2) The American Osteopathic Association (AOA);
- (3) A state medical society or association;
- (4) The American Medical Association (AMA); and
- (5) Specialty boards accredited by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the AOA or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPS).

(b) Category 1 CME education shall be presented, offered, or accredited by a Category 1 provider as defined above and shall include:

- (1) Educational courses;
- (2) Scientific or clinical presentations or publications;
- (3) Printed, recorded, audio, video, online or electronic educational materials for which CME credits are awarded by the publisher;
- (4) Skill development;
- (5) Performance improvement activities; or
- (6) Journal-based CME activities within a peer-reviewed, professional journal.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-14(a)(15);  
Eff. January 1, 2000;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; July 1, 2007; January 1, 2001.*

#### 21 NCAC 32R.0103 EXCEPTIONS

(a) A physician is exempt from the requirements of Rule .0101 of this Section if the licensee is:

- (1) Currently enrolled in an AOA or Accreditation of Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited graduate medical education program;
- (2) In good standing with the Board, serving in the armed forces of the United States or serving in support of such armed forces, and serving in a combat zone, or serving with respect to a military contingency operation as defined by 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13); or
- (3) Serving as a member of the General Assembly's House or Senate Health Committee.

(b) A physician who obtains initial certification from an ABMS, AOA or RCPS specialty board shall be deemed to have satisfied his or her entire CME requirement for the three year cycle in which the physician obtains board certification.

(c) A physician who attests that he or she is continuously engaged in a program of recertification, or maintenance of certification, from an ABMS, AOA or RCPS specialty board shall be deemed to have satisfied his or her entire CME requirement for that three year cycle.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 90-14(a)(15); 90B-15;  
Eff. January 1, 2000;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001.

**21 NCAC 32R.0104 REPORTING**

At the time of annual renewal, each Licensee shall report on the Board's annual renewal form compliance with, or exemption from, Rule .0101 of this Section. Records documenting compliance or exemption must be maintained for six consecutive years and may be inspected by the Board or its agents.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 90-14(a)(15);  
Eff. January 1, 2000;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001.

**21 NCAC 32R.0105 WAIVER FOR LICENSEES SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE US**

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 105-249.2; S. L. 2009-458; Section 7508 of the Internal Revenue Code; 10 U.S.C. 101;  
Eff. August 1, 2010;  
Repealed Eff. August 1, 2012.