

1 21 NCAC 52.0208 is amended with changes as published in NCR 26:07, pp. 570-572, as follows:

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3 **21 NCAC 52 .0208 CONTINUING EDUCATION**

4 (a) An additional requirement for issuance of the annual renewal certificate shall be certification to the board of  
5 proof of having complied with the continuing education provisions of the General Statutes. The board shall notify  
6 all podiatrists that 25 hours are required annually.

7 (b) General CME policy – Minimum of 25 hours / year

8 (1) Completion of 25 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) is required per year (July 1-June 30)  
9 for renewal of licensure. CME credits cannot be carried over from the previous licensure year.

10 (2) It shall be the responsibility of the individual podiatrist to ascertain in advance that the courses which he  
11 or she attends have received proper approval of the certifying organizations. The Board shall respond in  
12 writing or by email with approval or denial to individuals requesting approval of CME courses and credit  
13 hours. Decisions by the Board are the final agency decision and may be appealed as set out in G.S. 150B-  
14 23.

15 (3) Certificates of completion of courses other than that sponsored by the NC Foot and Ankle Society  
16 (NCF&AS) must be submitted to the Board along with the podiatrist's annual license renewal documents.  
17 Completion certificates must contain the following information:

- 18 (A) Podiatrist's name;  
19 (B) Course name, location, and date;  
20 (C) Number of hours CME completed;  
21 (D) Signature of seminar chairperson; and  
22 (E) Name of certifying or sponsoring agency.

23 Handwritten certificates are not acceptable. It is the podiatrist's responsibility to contact the seminar  
24 organizer to secure a printed certificate before submitting to the Board for approval along with a renewal.

25 (4) In the case of a licensed podiatrist participating in the second or third year of a medical residency, a  
26 letter signed by the podiatric residency director indicating podiatrist's name and the dates the podiatrist has  
27 been in residency will substitute for the 25-credit hour requirement and a CME certificate.

28 ~~(5) [A podiatrist has the choice of submitting his CME certificates along with the other required renewal~~  
29 ~~documents or in advance of the renewal to the Board in hardcopy, facsimile, or electronic methods.]~~

30 A podiatrist may submit his CME certificate(s) to the Board in facsimile, electronic, or hard copy format at  
31 any time during the renewal year.

32 (6) The Board shall retain CME documentation along with the individual podiatrist's license renewal  
33 information.

34 (c) Category 1: Minimum requirement 20 hours per year, as follows:

35 (1) Continuing medical education (CME) credit shall be allowed for attendance at educational seminars  
36 offered by the North Carolina Foot and Ankle Society (NCF&AS). The number of qualifying hours of  
37 continuing education shall be determined and approved by the Board in advance based on the standards in

1 90-202.11. NCF&AS shall provide the Board directly with a listing of individuals attending its CME events  
2 and credits earned.

3 (2) Continuing medical education credit shall be recognized for attendance at educational seminars offered  
4 by other national, state and podiatric education providers, as certified by the Council on Podiatric Medical  
5 Education (CPME) of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA). The number of qualifying  
6 hours of continuing education shall be determined and approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical  
7 Education.

8 (3) Lecturers may receive one hour of credit for each hour of CPME- or APMA- approved lectures given,  
9 but such credit shall be limited to one hour for each discrete topic. A brief summary of the content of each  
10 lecture must be submitted for approval.

11 (4) Category 1 is limited to educational seminars either offered by NCF&AS or by sponsors pre-approved  
12 by CPME:

13 [http://www.apma.org/Members/Education/CPMEAccreditation/ContinuingEducation/CPME700.aspx?FT=  
14 .pdf](http://www.apma.org/Members/Education/CPMEAccreditation/ContinuingEducation/CPME700.aspx?FT=.pdf)

15 (N.B.: APMA- or CPME- approved **online** or **journal** courses are considered Category 2.)

16 (d) Category 2: A maximum of only 5 of the total 25 CME hours per year will be allowed as follows:

17 (1) Continuing medical education (CME) credit shall be allowed for educational programs approved for  
18 Category 1 credit by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Osteopathic Association  
19 (AOA) or their affiliated organizations.

20 (2) Continuing medical education (CME) credit shall be allowed for courses approved by North Carolina  
21 Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

22 (3) Online or medical journal courses approved by CPME are permitted.

23 (4) For courses not pre-approved by AHEC, AOA, or AMA, all requests for CME approval ~~should~~ **must**  
24 contain a timeline and course description.

25 (e) Waiver for Certified Illness, Medical Condition, Natural Disaster, or Undue Hardship

26 Since continuing education is one of the methods whereby a podiatrist keeps his medical knowledge and skills up-  
27 to-date, in the case of an unexpected, certified illness or medical condition of the licensee or immediate family  
28 member (as certified by a letter from a licensed physician) or undue hardship (e.g., active military service or natural  
29 disaster) which precludes a licensed podiatrist from completing his continuing education requirement within the 18-  
30 month timeframe from July 1 of the year of last license or renewal issuance through December 31 of the following  
31 year, the Board may waive the continuing education requirement for license renewal by issuing the podiatrist a  
32 conditional license predicated on the licensee acquiring all of the required continuing education credits in a  
33 mutually-agreeable timeframe, but no later than 24 months after December 31 of the year following the year of  
34 license or renewal issuance. The Board reserves the right to require additional information to support the licensee's  
35 claim. The Board will notify the licensee of its decision in writing.

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37 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-202.4(g); 90-202.11;*

- 1 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
- 2 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2012; November 1, 2011; June 1, 2011; December 1, 1988.*