

## 21 NCAC 52 .0208 CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

(b) General CME policy – Minimum requirement of 25 hours per year, as follows:

- (1) Completion of 25 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) is required per year (July 1-June 30) for renewal of licensure. CME credits cannot be carried over from the previous licensure year.
- (2) It shall be the responsibility of the individual podiatrist to ascertain in advance that the courses which he or she attends have received proper approval of the certifying organizations. The Board shall respond in writing or by email with approval or denial based on the standards in this Rule to individuals requesting approval of CME courses and credit hours. Decisions by the Board are the final agency decision and may be appealed as set out in G.S. 150B-23.
- (3) Certificates of completion of courses other than that sponsored by the NC Foot and Ankle Society (NCF&AS) must be submitted to the Board along with the podiatrist's annual license renewal documents. Completion certificates must contain the following information:
  - (A) Podiatrist's name;
  - (B) Course name, location, and date;
  - (C) Number of hours CME completed;
  - (D) Signature of seminar chairperson; and
  - (E) Name of certifying or sponsoring agency.

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

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

- (1) Continuing medical education (CME) credit shall be allowed for attendance at educational seminars offered by the North Carolina Foot and Ankle Society (NCF&AS). The number of qualifying hours of continuing education shall be determined and approved by the Board in advance based on the standards in 90-202.11. NCF&AS shall provide the Board directly with a listing of individuals attending its CME events and credits earned.
- (2) Continuing medical education credit shall be recognized for attendance at educational seminars offered by other national, state and podiatric education providers, as certified by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA). The number of qualifying hours of continuing education shall be determined and approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education.
- (3) Lecturers may receive one hour of credit for each hour of CPME- or APMA- approved lectures given, but such credit shall be limited to one hour for each discrete topic. A brief summary of the content of each lecture must be submitted for approval.
- (4) Category 1 is limited to educational seminars either offered by NCF&AS or by sponsors pre-approved by CPME:  
<http://www.apma.org/Members/Education/CPMEAcredit/ContinuingEducation/CPME700.aspx?FT=.pdf>

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

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

- (1) Continuing medical education (CME) credit shall be allowed for educational programs approved for Category 1 credit by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or their affiliated organizations.
- (2) Continuing medical education (CME) credit shall be allowed for courses approved by North Carolina Area Health Education Center (AHEC).
- (3) Online or medical journal courses approved by CPME are permitted.
- (4) For courses not pre-approved by AHEC, AOA, or AMA, all requests for CME approval must contain a timeline and course description.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 90-202.4(g); 90-202.11;  
Eff. February 1, 1976;  
Amended Eff. November 1, 2011; June 1, 2011; December 1, 1988.

