



## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CONNECTICUT PHYSICIANS

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### ISSUE

What are Connecticut's continuing medical education (CME) requirements for physicians?

### SUMMARY

Physicians must obtain an annual license from the Department of Public Health (DPH) in order to practice medicine in Connecticut. To qualify for license renewal, physicians must complete at least 50 contact hours of CME during the previous 24 months.

DPH may waive CME requirements for physicians who (1) have a physician-certified illness or medical disability or (2) engage in specified activities, such as serving on the Connecticut Medical Examining Board.

Physicians not actively practicing during a one-year license renewal period are exempt from CME requirements if they apply to DPH for such an exemption before the period ends. Physicians receiving such an exemption must complete a specified number of CME hours and, in some cases, an examination before returning to active practice.

### CME REQUIREMENTS

Physicians applying for license renewal must have completed at least 50 contact hours of CME during the previous 24 months. (A "contact hour" means at least 50 minutes of CME activity.) Physicians are exempt from CME requirements during their first license renewal ([CGS § 20-10b\(b\)](#)).



CME must be in the physician's practice area, reflect his or her professional needs, and include at least one contact hour of training or education in each of the following topics during the first renewal period for which CME is required (i.e., the second license renewal), and once every six years thereafter:

1. infectious diseases, including AIDS and HIV;
2. risk management;
3. sexual assault;
4. domestic violence;
5. cultural competency; and
6. behavioral health.

By law, acceptable CME includes (1) courses offered or approved by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Medical Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut State Medical Society, county medical societies, or equivalent organizations in other jurisdictions; (2) education sponsored by hospitals or other health care institutions; and (3) courses offered by regionally accredited academic institutions or state or local health departments ([CGS § 20-10b\(b\)](#)).

### ***Waivers***

The DPH commissioner may waive up to 10 contact hours of CME for a physician who (1) serves as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board or a medical hearing panel or (2) helps DPH with its duties to its professional boards and commissions ([CGS § 20-10b\(b\)](#)).

The commissioner may also waive CME requirements, or grant an extension, to a physician who has a medical disability or illness. The physician must apply to DPH for a waiver or extension and provide a licensed physician's certification of the disability or illness, and other documents the commissioner may require. The department can grant a waiver or extension once per registration period ([CGS § 20-10b\(f\)](#)).

### ***Exemptions***

A physician not actively practicing during a one-year license renewal period is exempt from CME requirements if he or she provides to DPH, before the period ends, (1) a notarized application for such an exemption and (2) any other information the department requires. The application must include a statement that the physician cannot practice until he or she meets the CME requirements.

A physician exempt from the requirements for less than two years must complete 25 contact hours of CME within the 12 months immediately preceding his or her return to active practice. A physician exempt for two or more years must complete the Special Purpose Examination of the Federation of State Medical Boards before returning to active practice ([CGS § 20-10b\(e\)](#)).

***Failure to Renew License***

A physician whose license lapses and who applies for reinstatement must document to DPH successful completion of 25 contact hours of CME within the year preceding the application ([CGS § 20-10b\(g\)](#)).

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