

**STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE  
CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**CE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS**

**FEBRUARY 2008**

In order to renew a license, completion of 20 credit hours of continuing education in the preceding biennial period, which runs from January 1 of the odd year through December 31 of the next even year, will be required for **respiratory care practitioners**.

- At least 10 hours must be obtained through classroom lecture, clinical presentation, real-time web-cast or other live sessions where a presenter is involved.
- No more than 10 continuing education hours may be obtained through Internet presentations, journal review programs, prerecorded video presentations or similar means of nontraditional education.
  - To qualify, the provider shall make available documented verification of completion of the course or program.
- Beginning with the biennial renewal period that will end December 31, 2008, one (1) continuing education hour shall be completed in ethics, and one (1) continuing education hour shall be completed in patient safety.
- The board will not accept courses of study, which do not relate to the clinical aspects of respiratory care, such as studies in office management and financial procedures.

The Board accepts respiratory care continuing education programs designated for professional development credits by **AARC, AMA, AOA** and **CSRT**. The courses, locations and instructors provided by these organizations for continuing education in respiratory care are deemed approved by the Board. Qualifying AMA continuing education programs shall be in AMA PRA Category I and qualifying AOA continuing education programs shall be in Category 1A and 1B.

**The following exemptions apply for certain respiratory care practitioners:**

- A respiratory care practitioner applying for certification in this Commonwealth for the first time, shall be exempt from the continuing education requirement for the biennial renewal period in which initial certification is acquired.

**Waiver of the CME requirements may be permitted as follows:**

- The board may grant a hardship waiver of all or a part of the continuing education requirement in cases of serious illness, military service or other good cause provided that the public's safety and welfare will not be jeopardized by the granting of the waiver
- A request for waiver must be made in writing, with appropriate documentation, and include a detailed description of circumstances sufficient to show why compliance is impossible.
- Waiver requests will be evaluated by the board on a case-by-case basis. The Board will send written notification of its approval or denial of a waiver request.

**For additional information regarding continuing education course providers, the following websites may be helpful:**

American Medical Association [www.ama-assn.org/go/cme](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/cme)

American Association for Respiratory Care [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

American Osteopathic Association [www.aoa-net.org](http://www.aoa-net.org)

Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists [www.csrt.com](http://www.csrt.com)

**Additional information regarding continuing education and a copy of the Board's law and regulations, can be found on our website at [www.dos.state.pa.us/med](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/med)**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE BOARD DOES NOT APPROVE NOR RECOMMEND ANY CME COURSES.  
IT IS THE LICENSEE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN/TRACK THEIR PERSONAL CME CREDIT HOURS.**