

**STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

CE REQUIREMENTS FOR GENETIC COUNSELORS

**SPECIAL NOTICE: ACT 31 OF 2014
CHILD ABUSE RECOGNITION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015, ALL HEALTH-RELATED LICENSEES SHALL COMPLETE BOARD-APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION IN CHILD ABUSE RECOGNITION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

In order to renew a license, all licensees must be in compliance with the Board's continuing education requirements for the biennial renewal period, which runs from January 1 of the odd year through December 31 of the next even year.

- Per Act 31 of 2014, two (2) hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements must be completed for renewal or reactivation of a license. Details and a list of Board-approved providers can be found at www.dos.pa.gov. Verification of completion must be sent electronically and directly from the course provider. It may take up to 7 days for the provider to submit the records to the Board's office.
- A minimum of 30 hours of continuing education applicable to the practice of genetic counseling is required for genetic counselors.
- Continuing education should be documented with a certificate of attendance or completion issued by the activity provider. The certificate must include the name of the course provider, the name and date of the course, the name of the licensee, the number of credit hours based on a 50-minute hour, and the category of continuing education, if applicable.
- Credit will not be granted for courses in office management or practice building.

The following exemptions of the continuing education requirement may apply for some genetic counselors:

- A genetic counselor applying for licensure in this Commonwealth for the first time shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement for the biennial renewal period in which initial licensure is acquired *if licensure occurred within 3 years of completion of the degree.*
- A genetic counselor on inactive status shall be exempt from the continuing education requirement.
- A genetic counselor seeking to reinstate an inactive or lapsed license shall show proof of compliance with the continuing education requirement for the preceding renewal period.

Waiver of the CE requirements may be permitted as follows:

- The board may grant a hardship waiver of all or part of the continuing medical 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 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. The Board may grant the waiver request in whole or in part and may extend the deadline by which the credit hour requirements shall be met.
- **The waiver request should be submitted to the Board at least 90 days prior to the end of the biennial registration period for which the waiver is sought.**

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

American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) www.abgc.net/

National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) www.nsgc.org/

Additional information regarding continuing education, and a copy of the Board's law and regulations, can be found on the website of the Board under which you are licensed:

State Board of Medicine www.dos.pa.gov/med

State Board of Osteopathic Medicine www.dos.pa.gov/ost

PLEASE NOTE:

THE BOARD DOES NOT RECOMMEND OR ENDORSE CE COURSES.

IT IS THE LICENSEE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN/TRACK HIS/HER PERSONAL CE CREDIT HOURS.

LICENSEE SHALL RETAIN PROOF OF COMPLETION OF CE FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE CE OR AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE BIENNIAL REGISTRATION FOR WHICH THE CE WAS REQUIRED, WHICHEVER IS LATER.