



News Alert

IMPENDING CHANGE TO PENNSYLVANIA PHARMACISTS CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) REQUIREMENTS

Beginning with the next licensing period, which commences on October 1, 2012*, two (2) of the required thirty (30) contact hours shall be completed in courses from the ACPE topic designator, "Patient Safety."

*It is important to note that the actual regulation states that the effective date is 2011. However, since pharmacist licenses renew in even years, it should be 2012. Consequently, this means that for the 2012-2014 renewal period, this additional requirement of two (2) "Patient Safety" CE hours will be applicable for the first time.

The Board is concerned about medication errors and believes that pharmacists benefit from completing continuing education specific to these types of errors. Recently, ACPE introduced new topic designators, which makes it easier for licensees and the auditing agents to determine if a course falls under a certain topic. ACPE has indicated that the topic designator, "Patient Safety," includes the prevention of healthcare errors, and the elimination or mitigation of patient injury caused by healthcare errors.

LICENSEES TO ADMINISTER INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS, BIOLOGICALS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

In addition to the aforementioned regulation, licensees who have the authority to administer injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations, are required to participate in a minimum of 2 CE's—as part of the thirty (30) contact hours—which addresses the administration of these injectables. Said related topics shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Disease
- ◆ Epidemiology
- ◆ Vaccine characteristics
- ◆ Injection technique
- ◆ Emergency response to adverse events

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