

Tennessee Board of Physician Assistants

Policy Statement on Failure to Obtain Required Continuing Medical Education

The Board of Physician Assistants adopted the following amended policy regarding continuing medical education hours on November 20, 2023:

A physician assistant and orthopedic physician assistant licensed in Tennessee, must within a two (2) year period prior to the application for license renewal, complete the required continuing medical education hours satisfactory to the Board. (See Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1130-01-.12 and 1130-02-.12 regarding continuing education requirements.)

Physician assistants and orthopedic physician assistants who are short up to five (5) hours of continuing education will be given a thirty (30) day grace period following a continuing education audit to make up to five (5) continuing education hours. Proof of completion of the continuing education hours within thirty (30) days will be counted towards compliance with the continuing education requirements. Failure to provide proof of completion of any continuing education hours within thirty (30) days will result in these hours being counted toward the deficient hours of continuing education. Physician assistants and orthopedic physician assistants who are short more than five (5) hours of continuing education will not be given the thirty (30) day grace period to make up continuing education hours.

After the thirty (30) day grace period following a continuing education audit, should a physician assistant and orthopedic physician assistant not be in compliance with the continuing education hours for a two (2) year period, the following shall occur:

1. The physician assistant or orthopedic physician assistant must pay a civil penalty in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each hour of Category 1 missed. Payment must be rendered within sixty (60) days of notification from the Board that the physician assistant or orthopedic physician assistant has been found to have failed to obtain the required continuing education hours.
2. The physician assistant or orthopedic physician assistant must make up the amount of continuing education hours that he/she is lacking, in addition to completing the continuing education hours requirement for the current two (2) year period. The deficient hours must be made up within one hundred eighty (180) days of receipt of this policy. Documented proof of the deficient hours obtained must be submitted to the Board upon completion.
3. The physician assistant or orthopedic physician assistant must complete an additional ten (10) Category 1 continuing education hours. This requirement is in addition to the requirement that the physician assistant or orthopedic physician assistant make up the continuing education hours that he/she is lacking, and in addition to the continuing education hours' requirement for the current two (2) year period. The ten (10) hours must be made up within two years (2) years of receipt of this policy. Documented proof of completion of the deficient hours must be submitted to the Board upon completion.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action. Failure to respond to the Board request for documentation or to make up deficient continuing education hours after notification by the Board may also result in disciplinary action.

The Board recognizes that is oftentimes difficult, if not impossible, for physician assistants and orthopedic physician assistants to obtain external documentation of Category 2 continuing medical education hours. As such, in accordance with existing rule, a physician assistant may produce "a written description of the training and how it applies to the practice as a physician assistant" (Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1130-01-.12(c)) to document Category 2 continuing medical education hours.

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS ON JANUARY 7, 2005 AND AMENDED ON NOVEMBER 20, 2023.