

Please see the following link for an electronic copy of the pharmacy lawbook:

www.pharmacy.ca.gov/laws_regs/lawbook.pdf

1. What are the CE requirements to renew my pharmacist (RPH) license?

RPH licensees must complete at least 30.00 CE hours each renewal period (every two years).

In accordance with [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\) section 1732.5\(b\)](#), this must include 1.00 CE hour of Board-provided law CE **and** 1.00 CE hour of Board-provided ethics CE. These mandatory Board-provided webinars can be located at the following link: https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/webinars/law_and_ethics.shtml.

Additionally, in accordance with [Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) section 4231\(b\)](#), this must include at least 1.00 CE hour regarding cultural competency. The Board will not be providing a course and cannot recommend or endorse a specific course. For further information regarding this CE renewal requirement, please review the section titled, “Cultural Competency Requirement”: <https://pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/personal/ce.shtml>.

Currently, there are no other specific statutory requirements regarding the content of RPH CE hours. RPH licensees are free to choose the topics of the other 27.00 CE hours. However, if a licensee choose to participate in any elective protocols (furnishing emergency contraception, smoking cessation, naloxone, HIV Preexposure and Postexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP), travel medications, administering immunizations/vaccines, prescribing schedule II controlled substances, etc...), the licensee may be required to complete additional mandatory CE. Please review FAQ #9 for further information.

2. Does the California State Board of Pharmacy (Board) have a list of recommended CE providers and/or courses?

No. The Board does not maintain a list of CE providers/courses and cannot make any recommendations regarding providers or courses.

To determine whether a provider or course is accepted by the Board, please refer to the criteria outlined in [CCR section 1732.05](#) and [CCR section 1732.2](#). Per CCR section 1732.05, CE accredited by the ACPE¹ and the CPhA are considered acceptable. **For example**, because Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit² is approved by

¹ [Accredited Providers By Name – Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education \(acpe-accredit.org\)](http://acpe-accredit.org)

² [New Credit Recognizes Interprofessional Continuing Education for Healthcare Teams | Joint Accreditation](#)

ACPE, it is considered acceptable CE for pharmacists. Additionally, per CCR section 1732.2(b) “... coursework which meets the standard of relevance to pharmacy practice and has been approved for continuing education by the Medical Board of California, California Board of Podiatric Medicine, the Dental Board of California, and the California Board of Registered Nursing shall, upon satisfactory completion, be considered approved continuing education for pharmacists”. See [CCR section 1732.1\(f\)](#). **For example**, because AMA PRA Category 1 CME³ is approved by these Boards, it is considered acceptable CE for pharmacists under CCR section 1732.2(b).

The course brochure should clearly state the provider’s name, the name of the provider’s accrediting agency and the provider’s number assigned by the accrediting agency.

3. Do I need to submit proof of completion of CE with my license renewal application?

No. You will only need to provide proof of completion of CE with your renewal application if you are changing your license status from “inactive” to “active.” Otherwise, **you do not need to submit proof of completion of CE with your renewal application**. If you are randomly selected for an audit of your CE compliance, the Board will mail a letter to your address of record requesting your CE documentation.

As a reminder, pursuant to [CCR section 1732.5\(c\)](#), RPH licensees must keep a record of CE hours for at least four years in the event that they are randomly selected for a CE audit.

4. Why has my license status been changed to “CE Inadequate – License Held” even though I completed my CE?

Your license status has been changed to “CE Inadequate – License Held” because you failed to numerically declare your CE hours on your renewal application. In order to change your RPH license status back to “active”, you will need to download a new renewal application and complete it in its entirety:

<https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/personal/rph.shtml>. Please e-mail your completed renewal application and proof of completed CE to renewalstatus@dca.ca.gov so we may resolve this for you. Once Board staff has reviewed your amended renewal application, your updated license status should be reflected on the Board’s website the following day.

³ [AMA PRA Credit System requirements | American Medical Association \(ama-assn.org\)](#)

5. If I completed more than 30 CE hours during my renewal period, can my extra CE hours be “carried over” to my next renewal cycle?

No. Pursuant to [CCR section 1732.5\(a\)](#), additional CE hours cannot be carried over to your next renewal period. CE hours must be completed during your two-year renewal period to count towards the 30-hour requirement.

6. Does the Board have a record of my completion of the Board-issued law webinar and/or the Board-issued ethics webinar? Can the Board issue a duplicate certificate of completion?

The Board automatically receives confirmation of your participation in the form of a daily report, showing the information you entered at the beginning of the webinar (your name, RPH license number and e-mail) along with your start and finish times. If you made it to the page with the link to the certificate, then you have completed the webinar and your participation has been recorded. In the event of a CE audit, your completion certificate will be verified with the Board’s records. Due to technical limitations, the Board is unable to provide duplicate certificates of completion.

7. Will Board-issued CE programs/webinars appear in my CPE Monitor?

No. NABP’s system only shows ACPE-accredited CE. Since the Board is not an ACPE-accredited provider, our courses will not show up on your CPE Activity Monitor Transcript. The Board does not upload information to or access the CPE Monitor for any reason. For this reason, pursuant to [CCR section 1732.5\(c\)](#), RPH licensees must keep a record of CE hours for at least four years in the event that they are randomly selected for a CE audit. To receive CE credit for Board-provided CE activities, you will need to maintain copies of your completion certificates.

Examples of Board-provided CE programs/webinars include, but are not limited to: the law webinar, ethics webinar, Naloxone training, *Furnishing HIV Preexposure and Postexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP)* training webinar, *Inspection Expectations, Diversion Trends, Loss Prevention, Legal Updates and CURES* webinar (formerly titled *Prescription Drug Abuse and Diversion Prevention Training: What a Pharmacist Needs to Know*), attendance of in-person Board meetings, etc...

8. Can the Board issue an extension if I cannot finish my CE on time?

No. There is no provision in pharmacy law for the Board to grant an extension for pharmacists to complete required CE for renewal of their license.

9. What are the CE requirements for participation in elective protocols listed in Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 4052 – 4052.9; 4232.5 and California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 1746 – 1747?

Please refer to the following table specific to this topic:

https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/personal/elective_protocols.pdf

Note: According to [BPC section 4026](#), “furnish” means to supply **by any means**, by sale or otherwise. This includes, but is not limited to, dispensing and prescribing.

10. How do I claim CE credit for completion of a Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advance Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course?

The Board accepts BLS/ACLS courses as CE as long as the course is in accordance with the guidelines outlined by the Dental Board of CA (Please refer to [CCR section 1732.2\(b\)](#)). According to the Dental Board of CA, courses provided by the American Red Cross (ARC), American Heart Association (AHA), or a provider approved by PACE or CERP are acceptable. However, **online courses will not be accepted**. BLS courses must include a live, in-person skills practice session, a skills test and a written examination. Licensees may claim a maximum of four hours per renewal period for completion of a BLS/ACLS course. Please review the following link for further information: https://www.dbc.ca.gov/licensees/continuing_education.shtml.

11. How do I claim CE credit for attending a Board Meeting?

Pursuant to [CCR section 1732.2\(d\)](#), licensees claim a maximum of six hours per renewal period for attending in-person Board meetings. Licensees must attend the entire session. No partial credit will be given. If a Board meeting is eligible for CE credit, it will be clearly notated in the meeting agenda. To claim CE credit, licensees must sign in **and** out on the meeting attendance sheet, providing their first and last name, license number, time of arrival and time of departure from the meeting. Please refer to the following link for FAQs specific to this topic: https://pharmacy.ca.gov/about/earn_ce.shtml.

12. What are the CE requirements for my Advanced Practice Pharmacist (APH) license?

In addition to the 30 CE hours required for your RPH renewal, you must complete an additional 10 CE hours during each renewal period (two years) in subject matters in one or more areas of practice relevant to the pharmacist’s clinical practice. Please review [BPC sections 4211](#) and [4233](#). You must be able to differentiate between your required 30 CE hours for your RPH renewal and your required additional 10 CE hours for your

APH renewal. There are no other specific statutory requirements regarding the content of your APH CE hours.

However, if you obtained qualification via a certification program as specified in [BPC section 4210\(a\)\(2\)\(A\)\(i\)](#), you should consult the requirements of the accreditation program you used to obtain certification for its CE requirements as required under [CCR section 1730.2\(b\)\(5\)](#).

You are **not** required to complete CE for the first renewal cycle of your APH certification. After that, the CE for your RPH and APH renewals will be on the same schedule.

Should you have any further questions, please contact the CE desk via e-mail at Pharmacy.CE@dca.ca.gov.