

**STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE  
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

**CME REQUIREMENTS FOR  
OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON LICENSE (DO)**

In order to renew a license, completion of 100 credit hours of continuing medical education in the preceding biennial period, which runs from November 1 of the even year through October 31 of the next even year, will be required for osteopathic physicians.

- At least 20 credit hours must be completed in American Osteopathic Association Category 1-A approved activities.
  - AOA Category 1-A credits can be obtained by attending formal, face-to-face educational programs that are designed to enhance clinical competence, improve patient care and are sponsored by an AOA-accredited Category 1A CME sponsor.
- At least 12 hours of the 100 must be completed in activities related to patient safety or risk management and may be completed in either Category 1 or 2.
- The remaining credit hours shall be completed in AOA Categories 1A, 1B, Category 2 or AMA Category 1 or Category 2 approved activities.

**The following are guidelines established by the Board for continuing education:**

**Category 2 Activities** – continuing medical education activities approved for AOA Category 2 credit, ACCME Category 2 credit, or AMA PRA Category 2 credit.

**AOA Category 2 Documentation must include:**

- Submit a copy of your AOA Activity Report

**AMA Category 2 Credit Documentation must include:**

- Activity title
- Subject or content area
- Date(s) of participation (i.e., month/day/year)
- Number of credits claimed

**Please Note:** An AMA Category 2 Continuing Medical Education Reporting Form can be found on our web site at [www.dos.state.pa.us/ost](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/ost).

**Calculation of AMA Category 2** - Physicians should claim credit based on their participation time with sixty minutes of participation equal to one (1) AMA PRA Category 2 credit. Credit is claimed in 15 minute or 0.25 credit increments; physicians must round to the nearest quarter hour.

**Approved activities in the area of patient safety and risk management may include the following topics:**

- Improving medical records and record keeping
- Reducing medical errors
- Professional conduct and ethics
- Improving communications
- Preventative medicine
- Healthcare quality improvements

**The following exemptions of the continuing medical education requirement may apply for certain physicians:**

- A physician 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.
- A physician holding a temporary training license within the renewal cycle shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement.
- A licensee who holds an **active/retired license**, who provides care only to immediate family members, shall be exempt for the continuing medical education requirement
- A physician who is on **inactive status** shall be exempt from the continuing medical education requirement.
- A physician who is 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 CME requirements may be permitted as follows:**

- The board may grant a hardship waiver of all or a 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 waiver request should be submitted to the Board 90 days prior to the end of the biennial renewal period for which the waiver is being sought.**

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

Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association [www.poma.org](http://www.poma.org)

American Medical Society [www.aoa-net.org](http://www.aoa-net.org)

Pennsylvania Medical Society [www.pamedsoc.org](http://www.pamedsoc.org)

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

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

**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.**

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