

02 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION**643 BOARD OF SPEECH, AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING****Chapter 8: CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

Summary: This chapter sets forth the continuing education requirement for licensees of the board.

1. Applicability

A speech-language pathologist, audiologist, dually-licensed speech-language pathologist and audiologist or hearing aid dealer and fitter shall certify at time of license renewal to compliance with the continuing professional education requirement set forth in this chapter. The provisions of this chapter do not apply to temporary speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants and trainee hearing aid dealers and fitters. The provisions of this chapter apply to inactive status licensees to the extent set forth in Chapter 7, Section 5 of the board's rules.

2. Audit

The licensee's certification of completion of continuing professional education is subject to audit pursuant to Chapter 13 of the rules of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, entitled "Uniform Rule for the Substantiation of Continuing Education Requirements."

Text of Sections 3 and 4 effective until close of license term ending on February 29, 2012**3. Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists****1. General Requirement**

A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall certify at time of license renewal to completion of 25 hours of continuing professional education during the preceding license term as set forth in this chapter. A dually-licensed speech-language pathologist and audiologist shall certify at time of license renewal to completion of 35 hours of continuing professional education as set forth in this chapter. One hour of continuing education is earned for each hour of actual instructional time, excluding breaks, lunch and other non-instructional time. To be recognized for credit, a continuing education activity must be of a type described in Section 5 and must meet the content requirement set forth in Section 6.

2. First License Renewal

A licensee whose initial license is issued during the first year of the 2-year license term described in Chapter 7, Section 1(1) of the board's rules shall certify to completion of 12 hours of continuing professional education during the preceding license term at time of

first renewal. A licensee whose initial license is issued during the second year of the 2-year license term need not complete any continuing professional education to be eligible for a first renewal.

4. Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters

1. A hearing aid dealer and fitter shall certify at time of license renewal to completion of 8 hours of continuing professional education as set forth in this chapter. One hour of continuing education is recognized for each hour of actual instructional time, excluding breaks, lunch and other non-instructional time. To be recognized, a continuing education activity must be of a type described in Section 5 and must meet the content requirement set forth in Section 6.

2. First License Renewal

A licensee whose initial license is issued during the first 6 months of the one-year license term described in Chapter 7, Section 1(2) of the board's rules shall certify to completion of 4 hours of continuing professional education during the preceding license term at time of first renewal. A licensee whose initial license is issued during the second 6 months of the one-year license term need not complete any continuing professional education to be eligible for a first renewal.

Text of Sections 3 and 4 effective for license renewals effective on and after March 1, 2012

3. Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters

1. General Requirement

A speech-language pathologist, audiologist or hearing aid dealer and fitter shall certify at time of license renewal to completion of 10 hours of continuing professional education during the preceding license term as set forth in this chapter. A dually-licensed speech-language pathologist and audiologist shall certify at time of license renewal to completion of 16 hours of continuing professional education as set forth in this chapter. One hour of continuing education is earned for each hour of actual instructional time, excluding breaks, lunch and other non-instructional time. To be recognized for credit, a continuing education activity must be of a type described in Section 5 and must meet the content requirement set forth in Section 6.

2. First License Renewal

A licensee whose initial license is issued during the first 6 months of the one-year license term described in Chapter 7, Section 1 of the board's rules shall certify to completion of 5 hours of continuing professional education during the preceding license term at time of first renewal. A licensee whose initial license is issued during the second six months of the one-year license term need not complete any continuing professional education to be eligible for a first renewal.

4. *[deleted]*

5. Acceptable Types of Continuing Education Activities and Required Documentation

1. No Hours Limitation

Continuing education may be earned without limitation as to hours by participation in the following activities only:

- A. Live attendance at seminars, workshops, institutes and in-service training sessions. Attendance must be documented by a certificate of completion from the presenter or provider that includes the title, date and time span of the activity, the location where the activity took place, the name and credentials of the presenter and the number of hours earned; or other reliable written proof of attendance that is acceptable to the board.
- B. Academic courses at an accredited institution of higher education. Completion must be documented by an official academic transcript.
- C. Distance learning activities in which immediate interaction with the instructor is available. Completion must be documented by a certificate of completion from the instructor or provider that includes the title, date and time span of the activity, the URL of the provider, the name and credentials of the instructor and the number of hours earned.

2. Four-Hour Limitation

A maximum of 4 hours of continuing education overall may be earned by participation in one or more of the following activities only:

- A. Preparation and presentation of a seminar, workshop, institute or in-service training session targeted at speech-language pathologists, audiologists, or hearing aid dealers and fitters, for the initial presentation only. Presentation must be documented by a course description, course outline and copies of all materials presented or distributed to attendees.
- B. Published professional writing in a book or a peer-reviewed journal. (This does not include pamphlets or training manuals.) Continuing education credit will be recognized only for the license cycle during which the book or article was accepted for publication. Publication and date of acceptance must be documented by a copy of the article or title page of the book, and a letter of acceptance or letter from the publisher.
- C. Commercially-prepared home study courses. Completion must be documented by a scored post-test or certificate of completion.
- D. Distance learning activities in which immediate interaction with the instructor is not available. Completion must be documented by a scored post-test or certificate of completion.

6. Content Requirement for Continuing Education Activities

1. Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

To be recognized for credit, a continuing education activity must directly relate to the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology, depending on the license held by the renewing licensee. The following content areas directly relate to the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology:

- A. Anatomic and physiologic bases for the normal development and use of speech, language, swallowing, hearing and balance;
- B. Physical bases and processes of the production and perception of speech, language and hearing;
- C. Linguistic and psycho-linguistic variables related to normal development and use of speech, language and hearing;
- D. Technological biomedical, engineering and instrumentation information which would enable expansion of knowledge in the basic communication processes;
- E. Various types of disorders of communication, their manifestations, classification and cause;
- F. Evaluation skills, including procedures, techniques, and instrumentation for assessment;
- G. Principles in habilitation and rehabilitation of communication and swallowing disorders;
- H. Principles in evaluation and rehabilitation of balance and vestibular disorders;
- I. Provision of hearing care by selecting, evaluating, fitting, facilitating adjustment to, and dispensing prosthetic devices for hearing loss, including hearing aids, sensory aids, hearing assistive devices, alerting and telecommunication systems, and captioning devices;
- J. Assessment of candidacy of persons with hearing loss for cochlear implants and provision of fitting, programming, and aural rehabilitation to optimize device use;
- K. Service delivery models;
- L. The ethical practice of speech-language pathology or audiology;
- M. Supervision training related to the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology; and
- N. Related disciplines that pertain to delivery of speech-language pathology or audiology services.

2. **Hearing Aid Dealing and Fitting**

To be recognized for credit, a continuing education activity must directly relate to the practice of hearing aid dealing and fitting. The following content areas directly relate to the practice of hearing aid dealing and fitting:

- A. Categories I – IX of the IIHIS-Approved Categories of Instruction, and the following content areas within Category X: Audiometric Equipment, Record Keeping and Aseptic Techniques. A copy of the IIHIS-Approved Categories of Instruction, other than non-approved content areas in Category X, is attached to this chapter as Appendix A; and
- B. Any other aspect of the practice of hearing aid dealing and fitting described in Chapter 10 of the board's rules.

3. **Non-Acceptable Content of Continuing Education Activities**

Continuing education credit will not be given to continuing education activities that do not directly relate to the practice of speech-language, pathology, audiology or hearing aid dealing and fitting. Examples of unacceptable content include, but are not limited to:

- A. Marketing and business communications and operations;
- B. Activities which deal with personal self-improvement, human relations, financial gain, time management or career options;
- C. Activities designed for lay persons; and
- D. Participation in or attendance at case conferences, grand rounds, and facility tours.

APPENDIX A

IIHIS-APPROVED CATEGORIES OF INSTRUCTION

CATEGORY I - Basic Science

Physics of Sound and Basic Acoustics

1. Propagation of sound
2. Physical characteristics of sound
3. Measurements of sound
4. Audiometric notation

Anatomy and Physiology of the Human Ear

1. Anatomy of the ear
2. Physiology of hearing
3. Theories of hearing
4. Causes and treatment of hearing impairment

CATEGORY II - Audiometric Assessment

Anatomical Inspection

1. Otosopic inspection
2. Auricular inspection

Puretone Audiometry

1. Air conduction tests
2. Bone conduction tests
3. Masking procedures

Speech Audiometry

1. Word discrimination tests
2. Threshold tests
3. Masking procedures

Special Tests

1. Retrocochlear tests

Soundfield Audiometry

1. Non-verbal tests
2. Speech threshold tests
3. Word discrimination tests
4. Instrument selection and validation procedures
5. Special tests and procedures

Tympanometry

1. Basic theory and procedures
2. Advantages and limitations for instrument selection

CATEGORY III - Audiometric Interpretation

Audiogram Interpretations

1. Classification of hearing losses
2. Patterns and configurations of hearing loss
3. Dynamic ranges of hearing

Speech Test Interpretations

1. Threshold test results
2. Word discrimination test results
3. Dynamic range implications

Referral Criteria

1. FDA guidelines
2. Special auditory training

CATEGORY IV - Patient Information And History

Establishing Patient Rapport

1. Establishing patient empathy
2. Emotional and psychological considerations
3. Demonstrating professionalism

Eliciting Patient History

1. Recognizing pertinent information
2. Patient referral sources

CATEGORY V - Hearing Instrument Systems Technology

History and Development of Hearing Instruments

1. Pre-electronic systems
2. Early electronic systems
3. Modern systems

Hearing Instrument Basic Electronics

1. General circuit principles
2. Amplifiers
3. Transducers
4. Potentiometers

Electro-Acoustic Specifications

1. ISO Standards
2. ANSI Standards
3. Other standards

Hearing Instrument Analysis

1. Biological checks and procedures
2. Basic and advanced electro-acoustic analyzers

Troubleshooting and Repairs

1. Feedback
2. Intermittent function
3. Battery checks
4. Non-functioning
5. Cleaning
6. Noisy
7. External controls

External Ear Canal Acoustics

1. Implications of cavity size to acoustic coupler
2. Measuring the acoustic cavity

Acoustic Coupler Systems

1. NAEL Standards
2. External ear anatomy and acoustic coupler considerations
3. Specifying acoustic coupler characteristics
4. In-office acoustic coupler fabrication

Acoustic Coupler Modifications and Effects

1. Canal modifications
2. Bore modifications
3. Venting

The Acoustic Transmission Line

1. NAEL Standards
2. Acoustic filters and dampers

Special Acoustic Couplers

1. Tube fittings
2. Modular and custom ITE instruments

Dispensing Office Lab

1. Equipment and supplies
2. Utilizing lab equipment

CATEGORY VI - Otoplastics

Anatomical Inspection

1. External ear considerations
2. Other physical parameters

Impression-Taking Techniques

1. Blocking the canal
2. Impression materials
3. Use of equipment and supplies
4. Impressions of the ear
5. Judging impression results

Preparing the Impression

1. In-office lab impressions
2. Communicating with the earmold lab

In-Office Acoustic Coupler Fabrication

1. Equipment and materials
2. Techniques in fabrication

CATEGORY VII - Selecting Amplification Systems

Parameters of Amplification Selection

1. Electro-acoustic considerations
2. Acoustic coupler considerations
3. Modification procedures
4. Anatomical considerations

Physical Considerations

1. Styles of instruments
2. Styles of acoustic couplers

Communicating with the Manufacturer

1. Instrument specifications
2. Special order systems
3. Custom ITE systems

Preparing the Instrument for Fitting

1. Pre-fitting checks and adjustments
2. Electro-acoustic analysis

CATEGORY VIII - Instrument Fitting Techniques

Physical Fitting

1. Communicating with the patient
2. Techniques in fitting
3. Instructing the patient
4. Adjustments and modifications

Initial Counseling

1. Limitations, need for adjustments and follow-up
2. Care and use of the amplification system
3. Use of special or additional amplification devices
4. Family member counseling

Determining Efficacy of the Amplification System

1. Soundfield testing
2. Other criteria

CATEGORY IX - Patient Follow-Up Care

Post Fitting Visits

1. Soundfield efficacy testing
2. Reinforcement counseling
3. Adjustments and modifications

Amplification System Maintenance

1. Cleaning, checking and testing the instrument
2. Maintenance of the acoustic coupler and accessories

Handling System Malfunctions

1. Recognizing and isolating problems
2. In-office repairs
3. Factory and/or lab repairs
4. Use of loaner instruments

Periodic Re-evaluations

1. Periodic otoscopic inspections
2. Periodic audiometric re-testing
3. Referral considerations

CATEGORY X - Management Considerations in Instrument Dispensing

Audiometric Equipment

1. Biological checks
2. Periodic calibrations

Record Keeping

1. Patient files and records
2. Business records and files
3. Complying with laws and rules

Aseptic Techniques

1. Personal hygiene
2. Equipment and supplies

(non-approved content areas in Category X not listed)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:
32 M.R.S. §17203(2)

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