360-5-.07 Continuing Education Requirements.

(1) Physician assistants licensed to practice pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-34-103 shall complete Board approved continuing medical education of not less than forty (40) hours biennially. Effective with the 2009-2010 biennium, at least ten (10) hours shall be directly related to the specialty of the Board approved primary supervising physician. Physician assistants who are authorized to issue prescription drug orders shall be required as a part of the number of hours of continuing education required herein, to complete a minimum of three (3) hours in practice specific pharmaceuticals in which the physician assistant has prescription order privileges.

(a) Physician assistants who are initially licensed by the Board and who have not renewed their license for the first time shall not be required to complete the 40 hours of continuing education during their first renewal, but physician assistants who have authority to issue prescriptive drug orders shall be required to complete the 3 hours of continuing education in practice specific pharmaceuticals in which the physician assistant has prescription order privileges.

(b) Physician assistants whose licenses are not active, such as those who are inactive or revoked are not required to complete the continuing education until such time as they are seeking reactivation or reinstatement.(c) Except for the three hours of continuing education relating to pharmaceuticals, the Board is authorized to waive the continuing education required for renewal in cases of hardship, disability, illness, service in the United States Congress or Georgia General Assembly, military service or other circumstances as the Board deems appropriate if supported by adequate documentation acceptable to the Board.

1. Physician assistants seeking such an exemption must submit a written request and documentation to support their eligibility for such an exemption.

2. Said request for an exemption shall be submitted to the Board not less than 60 days prior to the expiration of the license to receive a determination from the Board as to whether an exemption would be granted.

(2) The Board accepts the A.M.A. (American Medical Association) Category 1, the A.O.A. (American Osteopathic Association) Category 1, A.A.A.A. (American Academy of Anesthesiologist's Assistants) Category 1, AAFP (American Academy of Family Physicians) Category I, and the A.A.P.A. (American Academy of Physician Assistants) Category 1 credit as meeting its requirement for Board approval. It is the responsibility of the physician assistant to verify approval with the source of the program, not with the Board, and the physician assistant shall verify approval before taking the course.

(3) Each licensed physician assistant must maintain records of attendance and supporting documents for continuing education for a period of 5 years from the date of attendance. At a minimum, the following must be kept:

(a) Name of Provider;

(b) Date of completion;

(c) Evidence of A.M.A. Category 1 credit; A.O.A. Category 1 credit; A.A.P.A, AAFP,

Category 1 credit; or A.A.A.A. Category 1 credit.

(4) The Board will audit a fixed percentage of randomly selected renewal applications to monitor compliance with the continuing education requirements. Any licensee so audited shall be required to furnish documentation of compliance as provided in paragraph (4) of this rule. Any licensee so audited who has been found to be out of compliance with the Board's continuing requirements may be subject to disciplinary action.

(5) If the licensee has not complied with the continuing education requirement by the expiration of the license, his/her license shall not be renewed and the licensee shall not practice as a physician assistant. A licensee may late renew during the three (3) months following the expiration date of his or her license by presenting satisfactory evidence to the Board of completion of the requisite number of hours of Board approved continuing education and the late renewal fee. Licenses that are not renewed within three (3) months following the expiration date of the license shall be revoked for failure to renew. In order to obtain a valid license after revocation for failure to renew, an applicant must apply for reinstatement.

(6) Continuing education hours that are used to satisfy a deficiency for the previous biennial renewal may not be used for purposes of renewal for the next biennium.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-34-5, 43-34-8, 43-34-11, 43-34-26.1, 43-34-102, 43-34-103, 43-34-107, 43-34-108. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Limitations Upon Use of Physician's Assistant" adopted. F. Sept. 11, 1972; eff. Oct. 1, 1972. **Amended:** F. Dec. 5, 1974; eff. Dec. 25, 1974. **Amended:** F. Feb. 14, 1977; eff. Mar. 6, 1977. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Dec. 4, 1981; eff. Jan. 1, 1982, as specified by the Agency. **Amended:** F. Sept. 6, 1985; eff. Sept. 26, 1985. **Amended:** F. Aug. 11, 1986; eff. Aug. 31, 1986. **Amended:** Rule retitled "Limitations Upon Use of Physician's Assistants; Ordering of Dangerous Drugs, Controlled Substances, Medical Treatments and Diagnostic Studies by Physician's Assistant, Dispensing of Dangerous Drugs by Physician's Assistant in Public Health Settings" adopted. F. Feb. 11, 1991; eff. Mar. 3, 1991. **Amended:** F. Dec. 17, 2001; eff. Jan. 6, 2002. **Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Continuing Education Requirements" adopted. F. Jan. 18, 2011; eff. Feb. 7, 2011.