ALABAMA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 540-X-14
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

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540-X-14-.01 Purpose.

(1) This Chapter sets forth the Alabama Program of Continuing Medical Education as required by Act 89-244 of the Alabama Legislature. The continuing medical education program requirements, policies, and procedures set forth in this Chapter are required for all licensees holding a license to practice medicine who reside within the State of Alabama.
Author: Wendell R. Morgan
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004.

540-X-14-.02 Basic Requirement.

(1) Every physician licensed to practice medicine in Alabama who resides or practices in the state must earn in each calendar year, on or before December 31, not less than twenty five (25) AMA PRA

Category 1 Credits™ or the equivalent as defined in this rule of continuing medical education.

(a) Effective January 1, 2025, each new applicant issued a license to practice medicine or osteopathy shall complete a Board-designated course in the area of professional boundaries within twelve (12) months of the license issue date. The sole exemption from this requirement is for physicians licensed pursuant to Ala. Code §34-24-75 ("limited licensee") who are enrolled in a residency training program or a clinical fellowship.

(b) Effective January 1, 2025, all actively licensed physicians shall complete a Board-designated course in the area of professional boundaries by December 31, 2025. The sole exemption from this requirement is for physicians licensed pursuant to Ala. Code §34-24-75 ("limited licensee") who are enrolled in a residency training program or a clinical fellowship.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ continuing medical education shall mean those programs of continuing medical education designated as AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ which are sponsored or conducted by those organizations or entities accredited by the Council on Medical Education of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama or by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor or conduct Category 1 continuing medical education programs.

(3) The following continuing medical education courses shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Chapter, to be the equivalent of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ continuing medical education:

(a) Programs of continuing medical education designated as Category 1-A which are sponsored or conducted by organizations or entities accredited by the American Osteopathic Association to sponsor or conduct Category 1-A continuing medical education for osteopathic physicians.

(b) Programs of continuing medical education designated to confer "Prescribed credits" which are sponsored or conducted by organizations or entities accredited by the American Academy of Family Physicians to sponsor or conduct "Prescribed credit" continuing medical education activities.

(c) Programs of continuing medical education designated to confer "ACOG Cognate Credits" which are sponsored or conducted by organizations or entities which are accredited by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology to sponsor or conduct approved ACOG Cognate Credit activities on obstetrical and gynecologic related subjects.

(d) Programs of continuing medical education designated as such by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

(e) Effective January 1, 2014, nationally recognized advanced life support/resuscitation certification courses, not otherwise accredited for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™, for a maximum of two (2) Category 1 credits for each course. Basic life support courses are excluded and are not deemed to be the equivalent of Category 1 continuing medical education.

(4) Effective January 1, 2003, the Board may require all physicians and osteopaths to successfully complete a prescribed course of continuing medical education on a subject or subjects designated by the Board. The Board may prescribe by regulation a fixed period of time or deadline for completion of the prescribed continuing medical education course or courses. The Board may make provision for a physician or osteopath to be excused from this requirement for reasons satisfactory to the Board. The Medical Licensure Commission of Alabama may, subject to notice and hearing, within its discretion, indefinitely suspend the license to practice medicine of a physician or osteopath who fails to successfully complete the course or courses of continuing medical education required by this subsection or impose administrative fines or other penalties as authorized by Section 34-24-381.

(a) Prescribed programs of continuing medical education required by the Board under the provisions of this paragraph shall count toward the basic requirement for continuing medical education as set forth in paragraph (1) above in the calendar year in which the program or course of continuing medical education was completed. Programs of continuing medical education developed by the Board under the provisions of this section and made available to physicians and osteopaths shall be deemed to be the equivalent of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ continuing medical education for the purposes of this rule. The Board may fix a reasonable charge to the licensee for any program of continuing medical education developed by the Board.

(b) Physicians holding an active license to practice medicine in this state will be notified by the Board of Medical Examiners of any prescribed course of continuing medical education by written notice which may accompany the licensee’s annual license renewal application. The notice will designate the subject matter, course content and credit hours of the prescribed continuing medical education course and will provide licensees with information concerning the source or sources of such programs of continuing medical education. The notice will contain a deadline by which time the licensee must have completed the prescribed course of continuing medical education, provided, however, that the deadline will not be less than 12 months following the date that the notice was mailed to the licensees.

(c) The Board may excuse a licensee from the requirement to complete a prescribed course of continuing medical education and may grant extensions for the completion deadline of prescribed courses of continuing medical education for reasons related to ill health, disability, financial hardship or other reasons deemed sufficient by the Board. Applications for excusal or extension of deadline should be addressed to Executive Director, State Board of Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 946, Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0946.

Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Amended: Filed December 16, 1999; effective January 20, 2000.
Amended: Filed August 22, 2002; effective September 26, 2002.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended:** Filed August 27, 2004; effective October 1, 2004.
Amended: Filed November 18, 2009; effective December 23, 2009.
Amended: Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.
Amended: Filed December 12, 2013; effective January 16, 2014.
Amended: Published August 30, 2024; effective October 14, 2024.

540-X-14-.03 Persons Affected.

Every physician holding a current license to practice medicine in the State of Alabama who resides in the State of Alabama is required to comply with the minimum requirement for continuing medical education established by these rules. Physicians holding a license to practice medicine issued by the State of Alabama who do not reside within the State of Alabama are exempt from this Chapter; except that a physician who maintains his personal residence outside of the State of Alabama but who maintains a significant medical practice within the State of Alabama is not exempt and must comply with the continuing medical education requirements established by these rules. A nonresident physician exempt from the minimum continuing medical education requirement who moves his residence into the State of Alabama shall be exempt from the minimum continuing medical education requirement for the calendar year in which he moved his residence into the State of Alabama. For the purpose of this Chapter, a significant medical practice in this state is the practice of medicine in any form for more than ten (10) calendar days in a calendar year. The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to licenses issued without examination (limited licenses) issued under the provisions of §34-24-75, except that physicians who are enrolled or were enrolled in a residency training program or a clinical fellowship program during any part of the calendar year are exempt.

Author: Wendell R. Morgan
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004.

540-X-14-.04 Retired Physicians.

A retired physician who does not engage in the practice of medicine in any form, but who nevertheless desires to maintain a current license may be excused from the minimum continuing medical education requirement by submitting to the State Board of Medical Examiners an application for waiver and a statement in writing signed by the physician attesting that he is retired and is no longer practicing medicine in any form. An application for a waiver due to retirement shall be deemed a request for a voluntary restriction on the physician's certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine under Section 34-24-361(g) which prohibits the physician from engaging in the practice of medicine in any form while the waiver is in effect. During any period of time in which a physician with an active license to practice medicine has been granted a waiver due to retirement by the Board, the status of such physician's license shall be "active with restriction due to retirement". The restriction shall be considered non-disciplinary, shall not be reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank and shall not be published in the Board of Medical Examiners' Newsletter. The restriction shall be a matter of public record and available to any person or organization requesting verification of the license status of the physician. In order to be granted a waiver due to retirement, the physician must voluntarily surrender his current Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate, which must accompany the application for waiver. A retired physician who has claimed exemption from the minimum continuing medical education requirement pursuant to this rule and who at a subsequent time desires to re-enter the practice of medicine in any form shall submit to the Board an application for removal of waiver status and proof that he has complied with the continuing medical education requirement as set forth in Rule 540-X-14-.02. Documentation necessary to establish compliance shall be in accordance with Rule 540-X-14-.10. Proof of compliance with the continuing medical education requirement is a condition precedent to re-entering medical practice and to the issuance, re-issuance or renewal of the physician's Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate.

Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Amended: Filed May 20, 1996; effective June 24, 1996. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004.
Amended: Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

540-X-14-.05 Exemption For Initial Licensees.

Physicians receiving their initial license to practice medicine in Alabama are exempt from the minimum continuing medical education requirement for the calendar year in which they receive their initial license.
Author: Wendell R. Morgan, Attorney for the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Amended: Filed December 16, 1999; effective January 20, 2000.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004.

540-X-14-.06 Exemption For Physicians On Military Deployment.

A physician who is a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States and who is deployed for military service is exempt from the minimum continuing medical education requirement for the calendar year in which he or she is deployed.
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed: Filed May 20, 1996; effective June 24, 1996. **New Rule:** Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **New Rule:** Filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010.

540-X-14-.07 Waiver For Illness Or Disability.

A physician who is unable to meet the minimum continuing medical education requirement because of illness, disability, or other circumstances beyond his control may apply to the Board of Medical Examiners for a waiver of the requirement for the calendar year in which such illness, disability or other hardship condition existed. A waiver may be granted or denied within the sole discretion of the Board of Medical Examiners, and the decision of the Board shall not be considered a contested case and shall not be subject to judicial review under the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act. If a waiver is granted, the physician is exempt from the continuing medical education requirement for the calendar year in which the illness, disability, or other hardship condition existed.
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.

History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991. **Repealed:** Filed May 20, 1996; effective June 24, 1996. **New Rule:** Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended:** Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

Ed. Note: Rule .06 was renumbered to .07 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010.

540-X-14-.08 Effective Date.

The Alabama Program of Continuing Medical Education shall become effective October 1, 1991 and shall apply to each calendar year thereafter.
Author: Wendell R. Morgan
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004.

Ed. Note: Rule .07 was renumbered to .08 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010.

540-X-14-.09 Certification Of Compliance.

Every physician shall certify annually that he or she has met or will meet by December 31 the minimum annual continuing medical education requirement established pursuant to this Chapter. This certification will be made on a form provided on the annual license registration certificate application required to be submitted by every licensed physician on or before December 31st of each year. The certification shall be in the following form: (Check a or b)

(a) (__) I hereby certify that I have met or will meet by December 31 the annual minimum continuing medical education requirement of twenty-five (25) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ or equivalent continuing medical education for the calendar year 20__ and have or will have supporting documentation if audited.

(b) (__) I certify that I am exempt from the minimum continuing medical education requirement for the following reason: (Check One)

(__) I do not reside in the State of Alabama and do not have a significant portion of my medical practice in the State of Alabama.

(__) I was exempt from the CME requirement for the previous calendar year 20__, and I moved my residence to the state of Alabama during the calendar year 20__.

(__) I received my initial license to practice medicine in Alabama in the calendar year 20__.

(__) I have obtained a retirement waiver from the Board of Medical Examiners, and I do not engage in the practice of medicine in any form.

(__) I have obtained a waiver from the Board of Medical Examiners due to illness, disability or other hardship condition which existed in the calendar year 20__.

(__) I am enrolled or was enrolled in a residency training program or a clinical fellowship during the calendar year 20__.

(__) I am exempt from the CME requirement for the calendar year 20____ because I am a member of a branch of the armed services and I was deployed for military service in the calendar year 20__.

Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991. **Amended:** Filed May 20, 1996; effective June 24, 1996. **Amended:** Filed December 16, 1999; effective January 20, 2000. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 18, 2009; effective December 23, 2009. **Amended:** Filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010. **Amended:** Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

Ed. Note: Rule .08 was renumbered to .09 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010.

540-X-14-.10 Record Keeping Requirement.

Every physician subject to the minimum continuing medical education requirement established in this Chapter shall maintain records of attendance or certificates of completion demonstrating compliance with the minimum continuing medical education requirement. Documentation adequate to demonstrate compliance with the minimum continuing medical education requirement of this Chapter shall consist of certificates of attendance, completion certificates, proof of registration, or similar documentation issued by the organization or entity sponsoring or conducting the continuing medical education program. These records shall be maintained by the physician for a period of three (3) years following the year in which the continuing medical education credits were earned and are subject to examination by

representatives of the State Board of Medical Examiners upon request. Every physician subject to the continuing medical education requirement of this Chapter shall, upon request, submit a copy of such records to the State Board of Medical Examiners for verification. Non-compliance with the requirements established in this rule to maintain records documenting that a physician has met the minimum continuing medical education requirement, and/or to provide such records upon request to the State Board of Medical Examiners may constitute grounds for discipline of the physician's license to practice medicine, within the discretion of the Medical Licensure Commission and in accordance with the statutes and regulations governing the disciplining of a physician's license.
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended:** Filed June 22, 2017; effective August 6, 2017.

Ed. Note: Rule .09 was renumbered to .10 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010.

540-X-14-.11 Non-Compliance With Chapter.

Non-compliance with the continuing medical education program basic requirement established in this Chapter may constitute grounds for discipline of the physician's license to practice medicine, within the discretion of the Medical Licensure Commission, on the ground of failure to comply with a rule of the Board or Medical Licensure Commission or on the ground of unprofessional conduct, in accordance with the statutes and regulations governing the disciplining of a physician's license.
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended:** Filed April 15, 2016; effective May 30, 2016.

Ed. Note: Rule .10 was renumbered to .11 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010.

540-X-14-.12 Issuance Of Annual Certificate Of Registration.

The Medical Licensure Commission shall not issue to any physician licensed in the State of Alabama who is not exempt an annual certificate of registration pursuant to §34-24-337, unless the physician certifies in writing upon the application for certificate of registration that he or she has met or will meet by

December 31 the minimum continuing medical education requirements prescribed in these rules.
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended:** Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

Ed. Note: Rule .11 was renumbered to .12 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010.

540-X-14-.13 Reinstatement After Inactivation Of License Under Section 34-24-337.

If a physician's license has automatically become inactive by operation of §34-24-337 and the physician subsequently applies to the Medical Licensure Commission for reinstatement of such license, the applicant must submit proof of completion of not less than twenty-five (25) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ or the equivalent as defined Rule 540-X-14-.02 continuing medical education within the preceding twelve (12) months as a condition precedent to the reinstatement of such license.
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Amended: Filed May 20, 1996; effective June 24, 1996. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004.
Amended: Filed November 18, 2009; effective December 23, 2009.
Amended: Filed December 16, 2010; effective January 20, 2011.
Amended (Rule No. Only): Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

Ed. Note: Rule .13 was renumbered to .14 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010. Original Rule 540-X-14-.13 was repealed and Rule .14 was renumbered to .13 as per certification filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

540-X-14-.14 Compliance Review.

It shall be the responsibility of the State Board of Medical Examiners to enforce the provisions of this Chapter by reviewing records which demonstrate compliance with the program for continuing medical education and which are maintained by physicians subject to this Chapter. This compliance review may be conducted by the Board by random or designated sample, by mail or in person, or otherwise at the discretion of the Board.
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.

History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended (Rule No. Only):** Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

Ed. Note: Rule .14 was renumbered to .15 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010. Original Rule 540-X-14-.13 was repealed and Rule .15 was renumbered to .14 as per certification filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

540-X-14-.15 Sanctions For Non-Compliance.

If a physician is found to be not in compliance with the requirements of this Chapter, his license to practice medicine may be subject to discipline by the Medical Licensure Commission as authorized under Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-361, §34-24-381. Administrative Complaints asserting non-compliance with this Chapter may be filed by the Board of Medical Examiners with the Medical Licensure Commission in accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act and Chapter 545-X-3 of the Rules and Regulations of the Medical Licensure Commission.
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended:** Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

Ed. Note: Rule .15 was renumbered to .16 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010. Original Rule 540-X-14-.13 was repealed and Rule .16 was renumbered to .15 as per certification filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

540-X-14-.13 (R) Grace Period And Notice (Repealed).
Author: Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-53; Act 89-244.
History: Filed November 2, 1990; effective October 1, 1991.
Repealed and New Rule: Filed April 23, 2004; effective May 28, 2004. **Amended:** Filed November 18, 2009; effective December 23, 2009. **Repealed:** Filed August 24, 2012; effective September 28, 2012.

Ed. Note: Rule .12 was renumbered to .13 as per certification filed March 11, 2010; effective April 15, 2010.