

State Board of Dentistry Requirements for Continuation Education Credits in Regards to Relicensure

Act 31

Act 31 mandates that all health-related licensees applying for the renewal of a license issued by the State Board of Dentistry are required to complete *at least 2 hours* of Board-approved continuing education (CE) in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements as a condition of renewal.

For the dental profession that means that dentists, hygienists and EFDAs need *2 hours* of Department of Human Services (DHS) and State Board of Dentistry approved CE in child abuse recognition and reporting *every relicensure period*. Applicants applying for issuance of an *initial license* are required to complete *3 hours* of DHS-approved training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements as a condition of licensure. No one is exempt from Act 31.

Act 124

Dispensers and prescribers applying to renew their licenses or certificates must complete at least 2 hours of CE in pain management, identification of addiction or the practice of prescribing or dispensing of opioids as a portion of the total CE required for biennial renewal.

PDA has obtained clarification from the Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) about exemptions in Act 124 for health care providers who do not prescribe controlled substances. BPOA confirmed that there are two exemptions:

1. Licensees who are exempt from the federal Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) requirements for a registration number.
2. Licensees who do not use the registration number of another person or entity, as permitted by law, to prescribe controlled substances in any manner.

In review, dentists who have a current DEA registration or use another DEA number (as permitted by law) to prescribe controlled substances, need 2 hours of CE in pain management, identification of addiction or the practice of prescribing or dispensing opioids from an approved program provider in the two-year period preceding licensure renewal. Initial licensees need 4 hours of education (2 hours in pain management or identification of addiction, and 2 hours in the practice of prescribing or dispensing opioids).

1. Act 124 - dentists with a DEA registration or who use a DEA registration need 2 hours in pain management, id of addiction or opioid prescribing practices every two years. On your license reapplication, the State Board will ask if you got two hours of CE to fulfill Act 124. Dentists who don't have a DEA registration or use a DEA registration as allowed by law do not need the CE. They will upload a statement with their license reapplication that they do not have or use a DEA registration.

Radiology

Radiology is a requirement from the PA Department of Environmental Protection that everyone who operates x-ray equipment gets CE. How often is based on the type of equipment you have in the office. Standard equipment is every 4 years. CBCT equipment is every 2 years. When the inspectors look at your equipment they will ask to see proof that everyone who operates the equipment has taken continuing education in radiation safety, biological effects, quality assurance and quality control.

CDC

The state also says that all licensees must comply with CDC guidelines but there are no specific CE requirements.