

# TITLE 21 - OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

## CHAPTER 46 – BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the Board of Pharmacy intends to amend the rule cited as 21 NCAC 46 .2201.*

**Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c):** [www.ncbop.org/rulemakings.htm](http://www.ncbop.org/rulemakings.htm)

**Proposed Effective Date:** June 1, 2024

**Public Hearing:**

**Date:** March 12, 2024

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Location:** North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, 6015 Farrington Road, Suite 201, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517

**Reason for Proposed Action:** *The Board of Pharmacy's continuing education rule previously provided for a limited number of carry-over hours on an annual basis. The Board removed that provision in 2018, as part of a larger effort to streamline continuing education for both pharmacists and the Board staff. The Board has determined that it is appropriate to re-introduce the ability to carry forward up to five continuing education hours per year.*

**Comments may be submitted to:** Jay Campbell, 6015 Farrington Rd Ste 201, Chapel Hill, NC 27517; email [ncboprulemaking@ncbop.org](mailto:ncboprulemaking@ncbop.org)

**Comment period ends:** April 1, 2024

**Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review:** If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit a written objection to the Rules Review Commission. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive letters via U.S. Mail, private courier service, or hand delivery to 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, or via email to [oah.rules@oah.nc.gov](mailto:oah.rules@oah.nc.gov). If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please review 26 NCAC 05 .0110 or call a Commission staff attorney at 984-236-1850.

**Fiscal impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in this notice create an economic impact? Check all that apply.**

- State funds affected
- Local funds affected
- Substantial economic impact ( $\geq$  \$1,000,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required

### SECTION .2200 - CONTINUING EDUCATION

#### 21 NCAC 46 .2201 HOURS: RECORDS: PROVIDERS: CORRESPONDENCE: RECIPROCITY

(a) As a condition of license renewal, a pharmacist shall accumulate 15 hours of continuing education annually.

(b) Five of these continuing education hours shall be obtained through contact programs. Contact programs are those in which there is an opportunity for live two-way communication between the presenter and attendee. An online continuing education course may satisfy this contact-hour requirement provided that the continuing education course includes live two-way communication between the presenter and attendee.

(c) A pharmacist who accumulates more than the required 15 hours of continuing education in a single year may carry forward up to five surplus hours to be applied to the following year's continuing education requirements.

~~(d)~~ A pharmacist shall preserve all continuing education records for three years. If a continuing education provider approved in Paragraph ~~(f)~~ of this Rule maintains an electronic database of all pharmacists granted continuing education credits accredited by the provider, then the storage of that information in the provider's database shall be deemed to satisfy the pharmacist's recordkeeping requirement.

~~(e)~~ Upon license renewal, the pharmacist shall report continuing education hours through the Board's online license renewal portal. The Board may require a pharmacist to submit records, reports of accredited hours and certificates of credit on a random basis pursuant to a continuing education audit.

~~(f)~~ All continuing education shall be obtained through continuing education courses accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education or the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists. Pharmacists may also acquire five hours continuing education credit for precepting, for at least 160 hours, a student enrolled in the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy, the Campbell University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, the Wingate University School of Pharmacy, or the High Point University Fred Wilson School of Pharmacy as part of these schools' academic program.

~~(g)~~ A pharmacist shall be exempt from the requirements of this Rule if:

- (1) The pharmacist is eligible for a waiver of continuing education requirements under 21 NCAC 46 .1613; or
- (2) For the entire year preceding license renewal, the pharmacist resided in another state, did not practice pharmacy in North Carolina, and satisfied the state of residence's continuing education requirements for pharmacist licensure.

~~(g)~~(h) Continuing education shall not serve as a barrier to reciprocity; however, all licensees by reciprocity must observe the continuing education standards specified in Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), ~~(e)~~, ~~(f)~~, ~~(e)~~ and ~~(g)~~~~(f)~~ of this Rule within the first renewal period after licensure in this state.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-85.6; 90-85.17; 90-85.18;  
Eff. January 1, 1985;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 2008; April 1, 2005; August 1, 2004; August 1, 1998; September 1, 1993; May 1, 1989;  
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. October 3, 2017;  
Amended Eff. June 1, 2024; January 1, 2018.*