

**Board of Medicine**  
**Questions and Answers on Continuing Competency Requirements**

- 1. When must I have the required number of continuing competency hours completed in order to renew my license?**

In your birth month in even years. You will be required to sign a certification on your renewal form that you have met the continuing competency requirements. Falsification on the renewal form is a violation of law and may subject you to disciplinary action. *See* 18VAC85-20-230.

- 2. Am I required to send in evidence of my continuing competency hours at the time I renew?**

No.

- 3. When do the continuing competency requirements begin?**

Hours must be obtained within the two years immediately preceding renewal. You may not count any hours obtained prior to 24 months preceding renewal nor may you carry over excess hours to the following biennium. *See* 18VAC85-20-235.

- 4. Who maintains the required documents for verification of continuing competency? Hours?**

It is the practitioner's responsibility to maintain the certificates and any other continuing competency forms or records for six years following renewal. Do not send any forms or documents to the Board of Medicine unless requested to do so. *See* 18VAC85-20-235(C).

- 5. What are "Type 1" hours?**

Type 1 hours are those that can be documented by an accredited sponsor or organization sanctioned by the profession. If the sponsoring organization does not award a participant with a dated certificate indicating the activity or course taken and the number of hours earned, the practitioner is responsible for obtaining a letter on organizational letterhead verifying the hours and activity.

- 6. Is it possible for a practitioner to earn accredited hours that are sanctioned by the profession but are outside the specialty area in which he/she practices?**

Yes. For example, a pediatrician or a surgeon could receive credit for documented hours sponsored by the American Academy of Family Practice.

- 7. What if I have earned the AMA Physician Recognition Award or have been recertified by my specialty board? Would that count for my continuing competency hours?**

Yes. Provided the Board has documented proof that the requirements to obtain the AMA award (or other similar awards) or specialty board certification are equal to or exceed those required for renewal of licensure. It would only be necessary to submit evidence of receiving such an award or certification.

- 8. What if I am newly licensed? Do I still have to obtain the full 30 hours of continued competency?**

No. There is an exemption for those persons newly licensed under 18VAC85-20-235(B). Additionally, there is an exemption for anyone practicing solely without pay in a practice (free clinic, rescue squad, etc.) that is under the direction of a fully licensed physician under 18VAC85-20-235(H).

**9. What if I become ill or incapacitated and unable to complete my continuing competency requirements prior to renewal?**

Prior to the renewal date, upon written request from the practitioner explaining the circumstances, the Board may grant an extension or exemption for all or part of the required hours. *See* 18VAC85-20-235(F).

**10. What if I am now retired and do not want to obtain continuing competency hours but do not want to give up my license?**

You may request an inactive license from the Board, beginning with your next renewal. *It is important to note that holding an inactive license does not authorize anyone to engage in the practice of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry or chiropractic in Virginia.* If you intend to practice at all in Virginia, even on a part-time or non-compensatory basis, you must retain your active license. *See* 18VAC85-20-236.

**11. What happens if I take inactive licensure status and later decide to reactivate?**

A practitioner seeking to reactivate a license must pay the active renewal fee and obtain the number of hours which would have been required for the years in which the license was inactive (not to exceed four years). If the practitioner has not been engaged in active practice for more than four years, he/she must pass a special purpose examination in his area of licensure. *See* 18VAC85-20-240.

**12. Are there any specific topics included in the biennial requirement of 30 hours of CE?**

The Board may specify a topic it deems necessary for 1-2 hours of CE. All licensees of the Board will be notified of any such specified requirement.