



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR DENTISTS

Effective October 1, 2005, licensed dentists are required to participate in continuing education activities. A copy of the law governing continuing education for dentists is attached. As a licensed dentist, you must comply with all of the laws and regulations governing your profession. Please note the following:

- Licensed dentists shall earn a minimum of twenty-five contact hours of qualifying continuing education every two years, commencing on the first date of license renewal after October 1, 2007. One contact hour is a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing education activity.
- Eight hours of volunteer dental practice at a public health facility, as defined in section 20-126l of the general statutes may be substituted for one contact hour of continuing education, up to a maximum of ten contact hours in one two-year period.
- The continuing education shall be in areas related to the licensee's practice, reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the licensee's practice, and include at least one contact hour of training or education in each of the following areas: infectious diseases, including but not limited to acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus; access to care; risk management; care of special needs patients; and domestic violence, including sexual abuse.
- Qualifying continuing education activities include, but are not limited to, courses offered or approved by: the American Dental Association or state, district or local dental associations and societies affiliated with the American Dental Association; national, state, district or local dental specialty organizations or the Academy of General Dentistry; a hospital or other health care institution; dental schools or other schools of higher education accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental Accreditation or a regional accrediting organization; agencies or businesses whose programs are accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental Accreditation; local, state or national medical associations; a state or local health department; or the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The Department does not approve continuing education courses or pre-approve specific coursework for individual licensees, nor does the Department maintain a list of continuing education courses.
- Internet-based, on-line and other distance learning opportunities are acceptable.
- Each licensee must obtain a certificate of completion from the provider of the continuing education or retain records of attendance for all continuing education hours that demonstrate compliance with the continuing education requirements and shall retain such documentation for a minimum of three years from the date of completion. Upon request by the Department, the licensee shall submit such certificates to the Department within forty-five days. A licensee, who fails to comply with the continuing education requirements, including failure to maintain proof of course completion, is subject to disciplinary action.
- Each licensee applying for license renewal will be asked to attest that the licensee satisfies the continuing education requirements. Certificates of completion should not be mailed to the Department at the time of license renewal unless a licensee is specifically directed to do so.



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- A licensee whose license is due to expire on or before September 30, 2007 is exempt from documenting completion of continuing education requirements until such licensee's next registration period.
- A licensee who is applying for license renewal for the first time is exempt from continuing education requirements until such licensee's next registration period.
- The Department may, for a licensee who is not engage in active practice or who has a medical disability or illness, grant a waiver of the continuing education requirements for a specified period of time or may grant the licensee an extension of time in which to fulfill the requirements. Waivers must be requested at the time of license renewal. Note that individuals who have received an exemption or waiver may not return to active practice until the licensee has met the continuing education requirements outlined in this document.
- A licensee whose license has lapsed and who applies for reinstatement shall submit evidence of having completed twelve contact hours of continuing education within the one year period immediately preceding application for reinstatement.

Should you have any questions regarding continuing education or license renewal, or wish to request a waiver of the continuing education requirements, please contact the Office of Practitioner Licensing and Certification at (860) 509-7603 or by e-mail at oplc.dph@po.state.ct.us.

State of Connecticut
Public Act No. 05-213: An Act Concerning Access to Oral Health Care
Section 11: Continuing Education for Dentists

(NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;
- (2) "Contact hour" means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing education activity;
- (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;
- (4) "Licensee" means any person who receives a license from the department pursuant to chapter 379 of the general statutes; and
- (5) "Registration period" means the one-year period for which a license renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 of the general statutes and is current and valid.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, for registration periods beginning on and after October 1, 2007, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a minimum of twenty-five contact hours of continuing education within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing education shall (1) be in an area of the licensee's practice; (2) reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public; and (3) include at least one contact hour of training or education in infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, access to care, risk management, care of special needs patients and domestic violence, including sexual abuse. Qualifying continuing education activities include, but are not limited to, courses, including on-line courses, offered or approved by the American Dental Association or state, district or local dental associations and societies affiliated with the American Dental Association; national, state, district or local dental specialty organizations or the American Academy of General Dentistry; a hospital or other health care institution; dental schools and other schools of higher education accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental Accreditation or a regional accrediting organization; agencies or businesses whose programs are accredited or recognized by the Council on Dental Accreditation; local, state or national medical associations; a state or local health department; or the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Eight hours of volunteer dental practice at a public health facility, as defined in section 20-126l of the general statutes, as amended by this act, may be substituted for one contact hour of continuing education, up to a maximum of ten contact hours in one twenty-four-month period.

(c) Each licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to section 19a-88 of the general statutes shall sign a statement attesting that he or she has satisfied the continuing education requirements of subsection (b) of this section on a form prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall retain records of attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate compliance with the continuing education requirements of said

subsection (b) for a minimum of three years following the year in which the continuing education activities were completed and shall submit such records to the department for inspection not later than forty-five days after a request by the department for such records.

(d) A licensee applying for the first time for license renewal pursuant to section 19a-88 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, is exempt from the continuing education requirements of this section.

(e) A licensee who is not engaged in active professional practice in any form during a registration period shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements of this section, provided the licensee submits to the department, prior to the expiration of the registration period, a notarized application for exemption on a form prescribed by the department and such other documentation as may be required by the department. The application for exemption pursuant to this subsection shall contain a statement that the licensee may not engage in professional practice until the licensee has met the continuing education requirements of this section.

(f) In individual cases involving medical disability or illness, the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, grant a waiver of the continuing education requirements or an extension of time within which to fulfill the continuing education requirements of this section to any licensee, provided the licensee submits to the department an application for waiver or extension of time on a form prescribed by the department, along with a certification by a licensed physician of the disability or illness and such other documentation as may be required by the commissioner. The commissioner may grant a waiver or extension for a period not to exceed one registration period, except that the commissioner may grant additional waivers or extensions if the medical disability or illness upon which a waiver or extension is granted continues beyond the period of the waiver or extension and the licensee applies for an additional waiver or extension.

(g) Any licensee whose license has become void pursuant to section 19a-88 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and who applies to the department for reinstatement of such license pursuant to section 19a-14 of the general statutes shall submit evidence documenting successful completion of twelve contact hours of continuing education within the one-year period immediately preceding application for reinstatement.