TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

POLICY STATEMENT FAILURE TO OBTAIN REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

A medical doctor licensed in Tennessee is required to complete forty (40) hours of continuing medical education courses during the twenty-four (24) months that precede licensure renewal. (See Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0880-2-.19 regarding continuing education requirements). Until December 31, 2024, in response to an audit the board will accept CMEs obtained on a calendar cycle or those obtained during a renewal cycle. All licensee whose license expire after January 1, 2025, will be required to submit proof of CME for the past renewal cycle rather than the calendar year cycle.

The Board of Medical Examiners recognizes that a medical doctor may inadvertently fail to obtain the required hours of continuing medical education. As such, the Board has adopted the following procedures when the medical doctor fails to obtain the continuing education hours required for licensure:

1. Medical doctors who are short up to five (5) hours of continuing education will be given a thirty (30) day grace period following a continuing education audit to make up to five (5) continuing education hours. Proof of completion of the continuing education hours within thirty (30) days will be counted towards compliance with the continuing education requirements. Failure to provide proof of completion of any continuing education hours within thirty (30) days will result in these hours being counted toward the deficient hours of continuing education. Medical doctors who are short more than five (5) hours of continuing education will not be given the thirty (30) day grace period.

2. The medical doctor must pay a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred ($100.00) for each hour of Category I missed. Payment must be rendered within ninety (90) days of notification from the Board that the medical doctor has been found to have failed to obtain the required continuing education hours.

3. The medical doctor must make up the amount of continuing education hours that he/she is lacking, in addition to completing the continuing education hours requirement for the current renewal cycle. The deficient hours must be made up within ninety (90) days of receipt of this policy. Documented proof of the deficient hours obtained must be submitted to the Board upon completion.

4. The medical doctor must complete an additional ten (10) continuing education hours. This requirement is in addition to the requirement that the medical doctor make up the continuing education hours that he/she is lacking, and in addition to the continuing education hours' requirement for the current renewal cycle. The ten (10) hours must be made up within ninety (90) days of receipt of this policy. Documented proof of completion of the deficient hours must be submitted to the Board upon completion.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action. Failure to respond to the Board's request for documentation or to make up deficient continuing education hours after notification by the Board may also result in disciplinary action. The Board has authorized the use of an agreed citation for such disciplinary purposes. An agreed citation is reportable on the Department of Health's website and its monthly disciplinary action report.

Originally adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners on January 26, 2010 and revised on November 3, 2020 and July 19, 2022.

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Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners