

CONTINUING EDUCATION FACT SHEET

REGISTERED PHARMACISTS (RPh / 051) AND CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN (CPhT / 049)

- Continuing Education (CE) is NOT required for the FIRST renewal of a license.
- Do not submit proof of CE unless specifically asked to provide CE.
- CE requirements for Registered Pharmacists (RPh/051) are detailed in Rules [68 IAC Section 1330.100](#) and Rules [68 IAC Section 1130](#).Subpart E.
- CE requirements for Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhT/049) are detailed in Rules [68 IAC Section 1330.230](#) and Rules [68 IAC Section 1130](#).Subpart E.
- Only *Certified* Pharmacy Technicians are required to complete CE. *Registered* Pharmacy Technicians are **NOT** required to complete CE.

Registered Pharmacist and Certified Pharmacy Technician Continuing Education Requirements:

A **Registered Pharmacist (RPh)** is required to complete 30 hours of continuing education each license cycle (except for the first license cycle, when no CE is required.) The CE must be completed during the 24 months before the expiration date printed on the license.

The **pharmacist** CE must include the following topics/categories:

- 1 hour Sexual Harassment Prevention training
- 1 hour Implicit Bias Awareness training
- 1 hour Cultural Competency training (Beginning January 1, 2025)

A **Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)** is required to complete 10 hours of continuing education each license cycle (except for the first license cycle, when no CE is required.) The CE must be completed during the 12 months before the expiration date printed on the license.

The **technician** CE must include the following topics/categories:

- 1 hour Sexual Harassment Prevention training
- 1 hour Implicit Bias Awareness training
- 1 hour Cultural Competency training (Beginning January 1, 2025)
- 1 hour Pharmacy Laws, Rules, and Ethics
- 1 hour Patient Safety

Approved CE Sponsors

All CE courses or programs must be completed through providers approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

Sexual Harassment Prevention training, Implicit Bias Awareness training, and Cultural Competency training may be completed through:

- Any IDFPR approved CE provider for any IDFPR profession
- A State of Illinois agency
- A Illinois county agency
- A Illinois municipality
- A Federal agency
- An accredited community college, college or university
- A licensed health care institution such as a hospital or nursing home

Reporting CE to IDFPR

During renewal, licensees certify a YES/NO question whether or not they have completed the CE. Most licensees will not be required to provide proof of completing CE to IDFPR.

- IDFPR requires proof of completing CE in the context of license restoration, random CE audits, or license discipline.
- It is the licensee's responsibility to save proof of CE and provide proof to IDFPR upon request. Licensees who are not able to provide proof of CE upon IDFPR request may be subject to discipline.

Approved CE Activities

CE may be earned/completed through the following activities:

- Attending **in person** a course or program that is offered or sponsored by an approved CE Sponsor. (The program may be inside or outside of Illinois).
- Participating **remotely** in a course or program that is offered or sponsored by an approved CE Sponsor. The course may be live or pre-recorded.
- A **Registered Pharmacist** may complete undergraduate level coursework for CE credit. Each semester hour = 15 CE hours. Each quarter hour = 10 CE hours. Audited courses cannot be counted for CE credit.

CE Waivers

A licensee may request a one-time waiver of the CE requirements for renewal in the following circumstances:

- Full-time service in the US armed forces during a substantial part of the license cycle.
- An incapacitating illness documented by a currently licensed physician. **A CE waiver will NOT be granted for the same incapacitating illness for 2 consecutive license cycles.**
- Temporary undue hardship or similar extenuating circumstances.

A request for CE waiver **must**:

- Be made at the time of renewal.
- Be submitted with the renewal application.
- Be submitted **BEFORE** the expiration date indicated on the license.
- Must include evidence from a third party of the circumstances for your request.

Requests for CE waiver will **NOT** be considered for late renewal, or license restoration.

When a licensee requests a CE waiver, the license is renewed to active while the request is under consideration. **This does NOT mean that the request for waiver has been approved.** A licensee requesting CE waiver will be notified by email address of record when a final decision has been reached concerning the request for waiver.

If the request is granted, no further action is required from the licensee until the next renewal.

If the request is incomplete, the Department may request additional information. Failure to provide additional information in a timely manner may result in denial of the request.

If the request is denied, the license will be placed in a non-disciplinary NOT RENEWED status until proof of compliance with CE requirements is provided to IDFPR.