

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT RULE IN THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
PHARMACY RULES,  
RULE 480-3-.03 CONTINUING PHARMACY EDUCATION, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC  
HEARING**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy (hereinafter "Board") proposes adoption of new Georgia Board of Pharmacy Rules, Rule 480-3-.03 CONTINUING PHARMACY EDUCATION (hereinafter "proposed amendments").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed amendments and a synopsis of the proposed amendments, is being forwarded to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on an interested parties list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the rule including the proposed amendments, and a synopsis of the rule including the proposed amendments may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Department of Community Health at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy's web page at [www.gbp.georgia.gov](http://www.gbp.georgia.gov).

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM on December 13, 2023 at Department of Community Health, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30334 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed amendments. At the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. To ensure their consideration, written comments must be received prior to December 6, 2023. Written comments should be addressed to the Executive Director of the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. You may email your comments to [elacefield@dch.ga.gov](mailto:elacefield@dch.ga.gov).

The proposed amendments will be considered for adoption by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy at its meeting scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM on December 13, 2023 at Department of Community Health, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy has the authority to adopt the proposed amendments pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 26-4-27.

At its meeting on July 19, 2023, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these rule amendments do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed amendments cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A §§ 26-4-27, 26-4-28, 16-13-22.

Also, at its meeting on July 19, 2023, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A §§ 26-4-27, 26-4-28, 16-13-22 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of this chapter will impact every licensee in the same manner, and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of pharmacy.

For further information, contact the Board office at 404-651-8000.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. §50-13-4.

This 13 day of November, 2023.



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Eric R. Lacefield  
Executive Director  
Georgia Board of Pharmacy

Posted: November 13, 2023.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY RULE  
RULE 480-3-.03 CONTINUING PHARMACY EDUCATION**

- Purpose:** To amend the rule to correct errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and/or formatting in the language of the rule. To amend the rule language to clarify CE requirements for newly licensed pharmacists.
- Main Features:** Correction of errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and/or formatting in the rule language. Amendment to rule language to provide additional specificity in the CE requirement for newly licensed pharmacists based upon the date of initial licensure.

**TEXT OF PROPOSED GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY RULE  
RULE 480-3-.03 CONTINUING PHARMACY EDUCATION**

NOTE: Struck through text is proposed to be deleted. Underlined text is proposed to be added.

**Text of the proposed rule is attached hereto.**

### Rule 480-3-.03. Continuing Pharmacy Education

- (1) The Georgia State Board of Pharmacy has the statutory responsibility and authority for the requirement of continuing education as prerequisite for a license renewal.
- (2) The purpose of continuing education for pharmacists is to maintain and enhance the professional competency of pharmacists licensed to practice in Georgia for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the people of the State of Georgia.
- (3) As a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her license, a pharmacist must complete not less than thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education.
- (4) One hour of C.E. is defined as 0.1 C.E.U. Each pharmacist in the State of Georgia must obtain 30 hours of continuing education or 3.0 C.E.U.'s per biennium for license renewal.
  - (a) Certificates documenting that 30 hours of approved continuing education or 3.0 C.E.U.'s must be completed and dated within the biennium.
- (5) A pharmacist licensed before or during the first six (6) months of the biennium (January 1, Year-One to June 30, Year-One), shall be required to obtain 30 hours of C.E. A pharmacist licensed during the following twelve (12) months (~~June~~ July 1, Year-One to July ~~June 30,~~ Year-Two) shall be required to obtain 15 hours of C.E. A pharmacist licensed during the last six (6) months of the biennium (July 1, Year-Two to December 31, Year-Two) shall be exempt from continuing education for that biennium only.
- (6) In the event of an audit and a pharmacist fails to submit certificates, which document his/her required continuing education credits, the Board will not process his/her request to renew the license until the continuing education requirements are provided to the Board.
  - (a) The pharmacist may not carry over continuing education credits from one licensing period to the next.
  - (b) Nothing is meant to prohibit representatives from the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency (GDNA) from assisting, auditing, or verifying a pharmacist's continuing education certificates as needed.
  - (c) Each licensed pharmacist shall maintain these certificates of attendance at continuing education meetings for a period of two (2) years from the date of the preceding renewal period.
- (7) The staff of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy may audit, or otherwise select randomly, the continuing education of a percentage of licensees as determined by the Board.
- (8) The Board may accept continuing education approved by other Boards of Pharmacy where such continuing education meets the requirements established by the Board.
- (9) Approval of providers and sponsors shall be as follows:
  - (a) All providers and sponsors of continuing education must be approved by the Board.
  - (b) American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (A.C.P.E.) approved providers shall submit documentation to the Board of such approval every two (2) years and have blanket approval.
  - (c) All other providers shall request approval of programs as a provider on the program approval form each time a program is presented. Nothing in these rules ~~are~~ is meant to prohibit the Board and/or GDNA from establishing a program or programs which can be granted special program approval(s) by the Board, and which may be utilized on more

- than one occasion or whenever such program or programs are presented by the Board or GDNA during a biennium.
- (10) The following criteria for quality shall be used for the approval of providers:
- (a) There shall be an administrative authority charged with the responsibility of maintaining the criteria for quality in continuing education programming for each provider.
  - (b) The administration shall be stable and an established procedure shall exist that ~~insures~~ensures an orderly transfer of responsibilities in the event there is a change in administration.
  - (c) Providers shall present a program or activity based on the needs of the target audience or the timeliness of the topic.
  - (d) Program objectives and rationale shall be stated.
  - (e) Providers shall give adequate, advanced promotional information, material about target audience, goals and objectives, program content, faculty credentials and fees.
  - (f) Each approved provider of continuing education in the State of Georgia shall provide a means of registration of the participants at each program and a record of attendance shall be maintained for a period of five (5) years. The provider shall also furnish to each participant, adequate documentation of his successful completion of the program.
  - (g) There shall be a method of program evaluation established and a statement of the evaluation process planned shall accompany each application. (The Board may supply sample forms.)
- (11) Providers shall furnish each participant with adequate documentation of this or her participation in the program. Information shall include:
- (a) Name and license number in each state of participant;
  - (b) Name of provider;
  - (c) Name of program;
  - (d) Hours/C.E.U. completed;
  - (e) Date of completion;
  - (f) Authorized signature.
- (12) The provider shall develop policies and procedures for the management of grievances. (This does not have to be submitted to the Board.)
- (13) The facility shall be appropriate and adequately equipped to support the delivery of the program.
- (14) Approval of programs shall be as follows:
- (a) Acceptable forms of continuing education shall be as follows:
    - 1. Institutes, seminars;
    - 2. Lectures, conferences, workshops;
    - 3. Correspondence and electronically delivered courses that are A.C.P.E. approved.
  - (b) The following are not acceptable as continuing education programs: welcoming remarks, business sessions, unstructured demonstrations, degree programs, or medical continuing education programs which are not A.C.P.E. or Georgia Board approved.
- (15) All continuing education providers seeking approval of the continuing education program by the Georgia Board shall submit a program approval form for each program presented.

These forms should be submitted sixty (60) days in advance. The Board may exempt programs from this advance time requirement period as set forth by Board policy.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 26-4-27, 26-4-28, 26-4-45, 26-4-80.