



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

There's Still Time to Obtain CPE Credits for 2021

Continuing pharmacy education (CPE) hours must be obtained each calendar year between January 1 and December 31. Per IDAPA 24.36.01.213, the rules of the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy for CPE requirements are as follows:

Each pharmacist must complete fifteen (15) CPE hours each calendar year between January 1 and December 31.

1. ACPE. At least twelve (12) of the CPE hours obtained must be from programs by an ACPE that have a participant designation of "P" (for pharmacist) as the suffix of the ACPE universal program number. ACPE credits must be reported to and documented in CPE Monitor in order to be accepted.
2. CME. A maximum of three (3) of the hours may be obtained from CME, if the credits are:
 - a. Obtained from an ACCME accredited provider; and
 - b. A certificate is furnished that identifies the name of the ACCME accredited provider and a clear reference to its accreditation status, the title of the CME program, the completed hours of instruction, the date of completion, and the name of the individual obtaining the credit. Upon audit, all CME certificates must be submitted to the Board.
3. Alternative to CPE. If audited, a pharmacist may substitute a current certification by a nationally accredited pharmacy practice-specific specialty certification program.

Need help tracking your CPE progress? There is an app for that. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) e-Profile app offers a seamless experience using CPE Monitor®. Download from the app store on your phone. Logging into CPE Monitor directly from the NABP website is also available using this [link](#) or by scanning this QR code:



The law does require the CPE to be documented in CPE Monitor and all continuing medical education certificates to be submitted to the Board between December 1 and December 31. The expectation is that all Idaho-licensed pharmacists meet the requirements of IDAPA 24.36.01.213 regardless of practice, setting, or location. There is no exemption for new graduates. The NABP audit report reflects zero CPE credits for new graduates until the graduate changes their e-Profile status to reflect “pharmacist.”

For the 2020 year, the Board opted to issue warning letters to those who did not meet the requirement. The Board recently revised the penalty for noncompliance beginning with the audit for 2021. If it is the licensee’s first violation, the penalty is informal discipline, which includes a fine for each missing hour of CPE as well as the requirement for an additional hour of CPE for every hour the licensee is short. If it is a repeat violation, the fine portion of the penalty increases and may necessitate formal discipline. Alternatively, the licensee may opt for a legal proceeding with a hearing officer from which the Board would review the case and make the final determination.

Culture of Safety Review of Operational Improvements in 2021

The Board is committed to process improvements as it relates to safety-sensitive events occurring in pharmacies. Therefore, the Board is sharing the following medication events that occurred over the past year and the process improvements that followed in hopes that all may learn from the experiences of others and look for ways to increase safety in all operations.

Synopsis (medication errors): A complaint regarding multiple medication errors made by a registrant was received by the Board.

Outcome: Drug outlet agreed to:

- Affiliate itself with a patient safety organization, and
- Make improvements to workflow and software systems.
- Registrant completed continuing education related to medication errors.

Synopsis (wrong person): A complaint regarding immunization errors made by a registrant was received by the Board.

Outcome: Drug outlet agreed to:

- Maintain training certificates by staff
- Use best practices to verify correct patient
- Share experience with all its Idaho locations

Synopsis (mis-entry): Medication error occurred due to mis-entry of medication. This complaint came in during the final stages of a corrective action plan for previous errors.

Outcome: Previously drug outlet agreed to:

- Create a workflow for staff to reduce errors and burnout;

- Require the review of new prescription hard copies to ensure information is correct;
- Complete the replacement of pharmacy system;
- Join a patient safety organization; and
- Establish new requirements to ensure proper counseling procedures.

Synopsis (mis-entry): Medication error occurred due to mis-entry of medication. Facility did not have an up-to-date employee roster with Board. Facility also failed to respond to investigation.

Outcome: Drug outlet committed to:

- Create a new email for associates to fast-track any communications to corporate office
- Set up a new template for pharmacists to use when there are issues with handwritten prescriptions
- Arrange additional training for input verification and training
- Make a new checklist and communications for updating rosters

Synopsis (wrong person): Medication was dispensed to the wrong person with a similar name.

Outcome: Drug outlet agreed to:

- Verify birth date prior to dispensing
- Institute policies and procedures for in-house quality assurance reporting plan that Board staff can inspect
- Conduct and participate in a quarterly quality assurance reporting plan with the rest of their staff, retaining for Board staff inspection
- Retrain staff on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and review text messaging to address those medications that were not filled

Data Point 'Date Sold' Now Required in Idaho PDMP

Per Idaho Code 37-2726 and 37-2730A, the Board has been given the task of operating and maintaining a controlled substance (CS) prescriptions (Schedules II, III, IV, and V) database. This system has proven to be useful in identifying prescription fraud or individuals who may be “doctor shopping.” As defined in IDAPA 24.36.01.600,

Specified data on controlled substances must be reported by the end of the next business day by all drug outlets that dispense controlled substances in or into Idaho and prescribers that dispense controlled substances to humans.

As of November 1, 2021, the Idaho Prescription Drug Monitoring Program's (PDMP) reporting requirements include the prescription's "Date Sold." Data element DSP17 (Date Sold) has been modified from "not required" to "required" for ASAP 4.1 software format. The change includes the required reporting of the ASAP field:

- DSP17 - Date Sold: Usage of this field depends on the pharmacy having a point-of-sale (POS) system that is integrated with the pharmacy management system to allow a bidirectional flow of information.

This information must be reported by dispensers with a POS system, as outlined in the Dispensation Guide. Non-POS systems are required to report if they have the ability to do so. Please familiarize yourselves with the new reporting requirement and make sure your software vendor knows about these changes. Thank you for your assistance in making this a smooth transition and making the Idaho PDMP Program successful.

If you have questions regarding the PDMP, please contact Teresa Anderson, program information coordinator, Idaho Prescription Monitoring Program, at 208/334-2356.

Tips for Efficient Technician Registration

The Board's goal is to get technicians registered and eligible to work quickly. Listed below are a few tips and common points that when missed delay the process.

Apply for the correct type of technician registration. There are three categories to choose from:

1. **Student technician registration** is only for applicants that are:
 - Over 16 years of age
 - Have **not** graduated from high school or equivalent
 - Must be in a high school or college-supervised pharmacy program
2. **Pharmacy technician registration** is only for applicants that are:
 - Over the age of 16
 - Have graduated from high school, equivalent, or greater. Acceptable documents are:
 - High school diploma or transcripts with a graduation date
 - General Educational Development
 - College transcripts showing enrollment
 - College degree

Please note: The pharmacy technician in training registration that had a two-year registration limit was removed from law (July 1, 2018).

3. **Certified pharmacy technician** is only for applicants that:

- Meet the above pharmacy technician requirements
- Have Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) or National Healthcareer Association (NHA) certification

New or currently registered pharmacy technicians who obtain PTCB or NHA national certification accreditation and want the certification recognized by the Board must submit a certified pharmacy technician application, including fees, required documents, and fingerprints.

Important Considerations

- All documents except the completed fingerprint card must be uploaded to the online application.
- Uploaded documents must be legible and in a full-size pdf format.
- Fingerprints must be obtained but should not be mailed/submitted to the Board until the online application has been submitted.
- Board mailing address is located [here](#).
- Walk-ins are always welcome.
- Any technician registration application submitted that is not the correct application will be withdrawn and fingerprint cards returned to the sender or shredded if no return address is indicated.
- Application fees are nonrefundable and, due to internal controls, funds are not transferable.
- Renewals are the responsibility of the registrant, whether a renewal notice is received or not.
- Individual registrations expire on the last day of the individual's birth month every year.
- E-Gov accounts: Any changes to contact or employment information must be updated in the registrant's MyLicense e-Government account within 10 days of the date of change.
- Applicants are responsible for knowing and staying current on Board laws/statutes. [Visit](#) Board laws/statutes.
- [View](#) pharmacy technician registration instructions.

Board Sets 2022 Meeting Schedule

The Board meetings play an important role in the regulation of pharmacy practice in Idaho. The Board extends an open invitation to all licensees, registrants, and other interested parties to attend and actively participate in these meetings. Feedback and engagement help to ensure that public health and patient safety are optimized in our state.

All meetings will be held in Boise, ID, on the following dates in 2022:

- March 3
- June 16
- September 15
- December 8

These are open public meetings. Due to social distancing protocols implemented during the pandemic, seating capacity could be limited. The public is encouraged to attend telephonically in such cases. Please visit the Board's website for meeting agendas, conference call numbers, and minutes. Public meeting materials are typically available for download 48 hours prior to each meeting. Licensees or members of the public seeking to be on the agenda may contact the Board's Executive Director Nicki Chopski at Nicki.Chopski@bop.idaho.gov or 208/334-2356. The deadline to request to be on the agenda is six weeks prior to the meeting date.

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