

## Continuing Education Requirements

Governor Greg Abbott has [declared a state of disaster](#) in Texas due to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The laws and rules governing the practice of pharmacy in Texas require pharmacy technicians to comply with certain continuing education requirements. Specifically, board rule [§297.8](#) states that pharmacy technicians must complete 20 hours of continuing education during their previous renewal period.

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy has determined that strict compliance with these laws could prevent, hinder, or delay the delivery of pharmaceutical services in relation to efforts to cope with the declared disaster.

Accordingly, the Office of the Governor has, to the extent necessary, temporarily suspended the continuing education requirements for pharmacy technicians of board rule 297.8. This suspension is in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor or until the March 13, 2020, disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

### **§297.8 Continuing Education Requirements**

~~(a) Pharmacy Technician Trainees. Pharmacy technician trainees are not required to complete continuing education.~~

~~(b) Pharmacy Technicians.~~

~~—(1) All pharmacy technicians shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements during their initial registration period.~~

~~—(2) All pharmacy technicians must complete and report 20 contact hours of approved continuing education obtained during the previous renewal period in pharmacy related subjects in order to renew their registration as a pharmacy technician. No more than 5 of the 20 hours may be earned at the pharmacy technician's workplace through in-service education and training under the direct supervision of the pharmacist(s).~~

~~—(3) A pharmacy technician may satisfy the continuing education requirements by:~~

~~—(A) successfully completing the number of continuing education hours necessary to renew a registration as specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection;~~

~~—(B) successfully completing during the preceding license period, one credit hour for each year of the renewal period, in pharmacy related college course(s); or~~

~~—(C) taking and passing a pharmacy technician certification examination approved by the board during the preceding renewal period, which shall be equivalent to the number of continuing education hours necessary to renew a registration as specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection.~~

~~—(4) To renew a registration, a pharmacy technician must report on the renewal application completion of at least twenty contact hours of continuing education. The following is applicable to the reporting of continuing education contact hours:~~

~~—(A) at least one contact hour of the 20 contact hours specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be related to Texas pharmacy laws or rules;~~

~~—(B) any continuing education requirements which are imposed upon a pharmacy technician as a part of a board order or agreed board order shall be in addition to the requirements of this section; and~~

~~—(C) for renewals received after August 31, 2020 and before September 1, 2022, a pharmacy technician must have completed the human trafficking prevention course required in §116.002 of the Texas Occupations Code.~~

~~—(5) Pharmacy technicians are required to maintain records of completion of continuing education for three years from the date of reporting the hours on a renewal application. The records must contain at least the following information:~~

~~—(A) name of participant;~~

~~—(B) title and date of program;~~

~~—(C) program sponsor or provider (the organization);~~

~~—(D) number of hours awarded; and~~

~~—(E) dated signature of sponsor representative.~~

~~—(6) The board shall audit the records of pharmacy technicians for verification of reported continuing education credit. The following is applicable for such audits.~~

~~—(A) Upon written request, a pharmacy technician shall provide to the board copies of the record required to be maintained in paragraph (5) of this subsection or certificates of completion for all continuing education contact hours reported during a specified registration period. Failure to provide all requested records by the specified deadline constitutes prima facie evidence of a violation of this rule.~~

~~—(B) Credit for continuing education contact hours shall only be allowed for programs for which the pharmacy technician submits copies of records reflecting that the hours were completed during the specified registration period(s). Any other reported hours shall be disallowed.~~

~~—(C) A pharmacy technician who submits false or fraudulent records to the board shall be subject to disciplinary action by the board.~~

~~—(7) The following is applicable if a pharmacy technician fails to report completion of the required continuing education.~~

~~—(A) The registration of a pharmacy technician who fails to report completion of the required number of continuing education contact hours shall not be renewed and the pharmacy technician shall not be issued a renewal certificate for the license period until such time as the pharmacy technician successfully completes the required continuing education and reports the completion to the board.~~

~~—(B) A person shall not practice as a pharmacy technician without a current renewal certificate.~~

~~—(8) A pharmacy technician who has had a physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances which prohibits the pharmacy technician from obtaining continuing education credit during the preceding license period may be granted an extension of time to complete the continued education requirement. The following is applicable for this extension:~~

~~—(A) The pharmacy technician shall submit a petition to the board with his/her registration renewal application which contains:~~

~~—(i) the name, address, and registration number of the pharmacy technician;~~

~~—(ii) a statement of the reason for the request for extension;~~

~~—(iii) if the reason for the request for extension is health related, a statement from the attending physician(s) treating the pharmacy technician which includes the nature of the physical disability or illness and the dates the pharmacy technician was incapacitated; and~~

~~—(iv) if the reason for the request for the extension is for other extenuating circumstances, a detailed explanation of the extenuating circumstances and if because of military deployment, documentation of the dates of the deployment.~~

~~—(B) After review and approval of the petition, a pharmacy technician may be granted an extension of time to comply with the continuing education requirement which shall not exceed one license renewal period.~~

~~—(C) An extension of time to complete continuing education credit does not relieve a pharmacy technician from the continuing education requirement during the current license period.~~

~~—(D) If a petition for extension to the reporting period for continuing education is denied, the pharmacy technician shall:~~

~~—(i) have 60 days to complete and report completion of the required continuing education requirements; and~~

~~—(ii) be subject to the requirements of paragraph (6) of this subsection relating to failure to report completion of the required continuing education if the required continuing education is not completed and reported within the required 60-day time period.~~

~~—(9) The following are considered approved programs for pharmacy technicians.~~

~~—(A) Any program presented by an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) approved provider subject to the following conditions.~~

~~—(i) Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the completion of the same ACPE course only once during a renewal period.~~

~~—(ii) Pharmacy technicians who present approved ACPE continuing education programs may receive credit for the time expended during the actual presentation of the program. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the same presentation only once during a license period.~~

~~—(iii) Proof of completion of an ACPE course shall contain the following information:~~

~~—(I) name of the participant;~~

~~—(II) title and completion date of the program;~~

~~—(III) name of the approved provider sponsoring or cosponsoring the program;~~

~~—(IV) number of contact hours awarded;~~

~~—(V) the assigned ACPE universal program number and a "T" designation indicating that the CE is targeted to pharmacy technicians; and~~

~~—(VI) either:~~

~~—(a) a dated certifying signature of the approved provider and the official ACPE logo; or~~

~~—(b) the Continuing Pharmacy Education Monitor logo.~~

~~—(B) Pharmacy related college courses which are part of a pharmacy technician training program or part of a professional degree program offered by a college of pharmacy.~~

~~—(i) Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the completion of the same course only once during a license period. A course is equivalent to one credit hour for each year of the renewal period. One credit hour is equal to 15 contact hours.~~

~~—(ii) Pharmacy technicians who teach these courses may receive credit towards their continuing education, but such credit may be received only once for teaching the same course during a license period.~~

~~—(C) Basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) courses which lead to CPR certification by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association or its equivalent shall be recognized as approved programs. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for one contact hour towards their continuing education requirement for completion~~

of a CPR course only once during a renewal period. Proof of completion of a CPR course shall be the certificate issued by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association or its equivalent.

—(D) Advanced cardiovascular life support courses (ACLS) or pediatric advanced life support (PALS) courses which lead to initial ACLS or PALS certification by the American Heart Association or its equivalent shall be recognized as approved programs. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for twelve contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for completion of an ACLS or PALS course only once during a renewal period. Proof of completion of an ACLS or PALS course shall be the certificate issued by the American Heart Association or its equivalent.

—(E) Advanced cardiovascular life support courses (ACLS) or pediatric advanced life support (PALS) courses which lead to ACLS or PALS recertification by the American Heart Association or its equivalent shall be recognized as approved programs. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for four contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for completion of an ACLS or PALS recertification course only once during a renewal period. Proof of completion of an ACLS or PALS recertification course shall be the certificate issued by the American Heart Association or its equivalent.

—(F) Attendance at Texas State Board of Pharmacy Board Meetings shall be recognized for continuing education credit as follows:

—(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for three contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for attending a full, public board business meeting in its entirety.

—(ii) A maximum of six contact hours are allowed for attendance at a board meeting during a renewal period.

—(iii) Proof of attendance for a complete board meeting shall be a certificate issued by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

—(G) Participation in a Texas State Board of Pharmacy appointed Task Force shall be recognized for continuing education credit as follows:

—(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for three contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for participating in a Texas State Board of Pharmacy appointed Task Force.

—(ii) Proof of participation for a Task Force shall be a certificate issued by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

—(H) Attendance at programs presented by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy or courses offered by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy as follows:

—(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for the number of hours for the program or course as stated by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

—(ii) Proof of attendance at a program presented by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy or completion of a course offered by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy shall be a certificate issued by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

—(I) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit toward their continuing education requirements for programs or courses approved by other state boards of pharmacy as follows:

—(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for the number of hours for the program or course as specified by the other state board of pharmacy.

—(ii) Proof of attendance at a program or course approved by another state board of pharmacy shall be a certificate or other documentation that indicates:

—(I) name of the participant;

—(II) title and completion date of the program;

—(III) name of the approved provider sponsoring or cosponsoring the program;

—(IV) number of contact hours awarded;

—(V) a dated certifying signature of the provider; and

—(VI) documentation that the program is approved by the other state board of pharmacy.

—(J) Completion of an Institute for Safe Medication Practices' (ISMP) Medication Safety Self-Assessment for hospital pharmacies or for community/ambulatory pharmacies shall be recognized for continuing education credit as follows:

—(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for three contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for completion of an ISMP Medication Safety Self-Assessment.

—(ii) Proof of completion of an ISMP Medication Safety Self-Assessment shall be:

—(I) a continuing education certificate provided by an ACPE approved provider for completion of an assessment; or

—(II) a document from ISMP showing completion of an assessment.

—(K) Programs approved by the American Medical Association (AMA) as Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) and accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education subject to the following conditions:

—(i) Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the completion of the same CME course only once during a license period.

—(ii) Pharmacy technicians who present approved CME programs may receive credit for the time expended during the actual presentation of the program. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the same presentation only once during a license period.

~~— (iii) Proof of completion of a CME course shall contain the following information:~~

~~— (I) name of the participant;~~

~~— (II) title and completion date of the program;~~

~~— (III) name of the approved provider sponsoring or cosponsoring the program;~~

~~— (IV) number of contact hours awarded; and~~

~~— (V) a dated certifying signature of the approved provider.~~

~~— (L) In-service education provided under the direct supervision of a pharmacist shall be recognized as continuing education as follows:~~

~~— (i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for the number of hours provided by pharmacist(s) at the pharmacy technician's place of employment.~~

~~— (ii) Proof of completion of in-service education shall contain the following information:~~

~~— (I) name of the participant;~~

~~— (II) title or description of the program;~~

~~— (III) completion date of the program;~~

~~— (IV) name of the pharmacist supervising the in-service education;~~

~~— (V) number of hours; and~~

~~— (VI) a dated signature of the pharmacist providing the in-service education.~~