

Montana Board News

Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners

December 2019

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Continuing Education rule changes effective December 7, 2019

The Montana Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners is no longer "in the business" of approving continuing education. During the past several months, the Board has proposed and adopted changes to the continuing education (CE) rules that clarify and condense the requirements.

Previously, the Board categorized CE obtained by licensees into four separate categories - education from sponsored organizations such as the American Association of Respiratory Care or American Medical Association, education from nonsponsored organizations such as in-services and conferences, education from teaching and education obtained through college course work or reading journal articles or other publications (not approved by a sponsored organization). The rules for these four categories were found in four different rules.

The Board has now combined all four rules into one rule, ARM 24.213.2104 (changing the name to Acceptable Continuing Education), repealing ARM 24.213.2107 (Category II), 2111 (Category III), and 2114 (Category IV).

To review what the changes are for these rules, please go to the Board website, <http://respcare.mt.gov/> and click "Regulations" on the left-hand side, then "Rules Notices" and lastly the "Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment and Repeal" linked under MAR 24-213-22. This document is what the Board put out for the public comment period, notifying anyone interested about the changes that were proposed and the rationale behind those changes.

There is no longer a process to obtain Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners approval for CE you take or want to offer to other licensees; the course you want to take or offer must simply meet the requirements laid out in ARM 24.213.2101 and 2104. The full text for both rules is on the next page.

Interested in learning about proposed rule changes and upcoming board meetings?

Email dlibsdrpc@mt.gov and request to be placed on the Board's interested parties list.

Every time the Board proposes a rule change, adopts a rule change, or puts out an agenda for an upcoming meeting, you'll receive a notification email.

Upcoming Board Events

- **Full Board Meeting**
Small Conference Room, 301
S Park Ave, 4th Floor, Helena;
Friday, May 15, 2020, 1:00 pm
- Agenda posted to board website
at least 3 days prior to meeting



The rules to the right will not be updated on the Board website to reflect changes discussed on the previous page until the Secretary of State publishes all rule changes for the 4th quarter of 2019 on December 31, 2019.

ARM 24.213.2101

- 24.213.2101 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (1) Each respiratory care practitioner must complete 24 continuing education (CE) units in the preceding 24 months, by the renewal deadline in even-numbered years. One CE unit is equivalent to 50 minutes in length.
- (2) Licensees shall affirm an understanding of their recurring duty to comply with CE requirements as a part of license renewal.
- (3) The CE requirements do not apply until a licensee's first full year of licensure.
- (4) The board/staff will not preapprove CE programs or sponsors. Licensees are responsible for selecting quality programs that focus on protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public and contribute to licensees' professional knowledge and competence. Acceptable CE activities:
- contribute to the licensee's knowledge and professional competence;
 - contain significant intellectual or practical content; and
 - are germane to the profession of a respiratory care practitioner.
- (5) Identical courses or programs may be submitted for CE credit only once every two years.
- (6) The board may randomly audit up to 50 percent of renewed licensees.
- (7) All CE must be documented to show proof of completion. Licensees must maintain CE records for one year following the renewal cycle reporting period and make the records available upon request. Documentation must include the following:
- licensee name;
 - course title and description of content;
 - presenter or sponsor;
 - course date(s); and
 - number of CE hours earned.
- (8) Licensees found to be in noncompliance with CE requirements may be subject to administrative suspension.

ARM 24.213.2104

- 24.213.2104 ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION (1) Acceptable CE programs include those:
- sponsored by institutions approved by the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education, Respiratory Care Accreditation Board or other successor accreditation organizations and courses approved by the American Association for Respiratory Care and its affiliates, the American Thoracic Societies, the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Nurses Association, the National Society for Cardiopulmonary Technologists, the American Lung Association, the American Lung Association of Montana, the Montana Heart Association, the Montana and American Medical Association, the Montana Hospital Association and Respiratory Care Journal (American Association of Respiratory Care sponsored); or
 - approved by accrediting organizations that establish standards and criteria for CE programs.
- (2) Approved CE activities include:
- seminars;
 - workshops;
 - conferences;
 - college course work:
 - one semester credit equals 15 CE unites and one quarter credit equals ten CE units;
 - teaching:
 - eight credits maximum;
 - two credits for each hours of presentation;
 - papers, publications, journals, exhibits, videos, and independent study:
 - eight credits maximum);
 - in-service programs; and
 - online courses, webinars, and correspondence courses.