



The Basics on Mandatory Continuing Education for Veterinarians and Training for Controlled Substance Licensees October 8, 2020

Mandatory continuing education overview

Mandatory CE for veterinarians became law in 2016. For license **renewals**, beginning on December 31, 2022, an applicant for a veterinarian license renewal who held a license for the 3-year period immediately preceding the expiration date of the license shall have earned, within the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of the application, **45 hours** of approved continuing education. Requirements for **new licenses and lapsed licenses** are different. Applicants for licenses in these situations may already have to show proof of CE.

When will mandatory CE take affect?

For license **renewals**, the first group of veterinarians who need to have completed CE are those with a license expiring on December 31, 2022. These veterinarians can start tracking and documenting their CE in 2020. All renewals after December 31, 2022 must also be in compliance with the CE requirements.

How much CE do veterinarians need to comply with the law?

Veterinarians are required to complete 45 hours of CE every 3 years. The license renewal cycle is every three years, so every time your license renews on or after December 31, 2022, you will need to have completed 45 hours of CE.

What will be counted as CE?

The full rules for veterinarians can be found through the LARA website here:

https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_72600_72603_27529_27555---,00.html

However, MVMA has tried to simplify it for members by providing the following.

Overall rules for veterinarians:

- No more than 12 hours can be earned during a 24-hour period.
- Credit for a program or activity that is substantially identical to a program or activity which the licensee has already earned during the renewal period will not be granted.
- A minimum of 30 hours must be scientific in nature (includes the science of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease as it relates directly to a patient or topics such as public veterinary practice, epidemiology, food safety, public health, animal welfare or antimicrobial stewardship).
- A minimum of 1 hour shall relate to medical records.
- A minimum of 1 hour shall relate to state veterinary law and/or federal or state-controlled substance laws.
- A minimum of 10 hours shall be completed in person.

All CE given by the following entities will count:

- Michigan Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

- AAVSB Registry of Continuing Education (RACE)
- World Veterinary Association (WVA)
- Local, state or regional professional association
- Member Institutions of the Association of the American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) – This includes Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine.
- AVMA constituent allied organizations and recognized veterinary specialty organizations
- A state veterinary board of another state
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

A maximum of 5 hours of CE may be counted from programs given by the following entities:

- American Medical Association
- Michigan State Medical Society
- Accreditation Council for CME
- American Osteopathic Association
- Michigan Osteopathic Association
- Michigan Pharmacy Association
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
- Educational courses offered by regionally accredited college and universities relating to the husbandry of food producing animals

Other CME activities that count:

- A maximum of 6 hours of CE is granted for individuals presenting a CE program related to the veterinary profession for most of the above-mentioned entities (see details in rules). This cannot be the licensee's primary employment function.
- A maximum of 5 hours of CE is granted for serving as the primary author or less as the secondary author on initial publication of an article related to the practice of veterinary medicine in a peer-reviewed journal.
- A maximum of 15 hours of CE is granted for serving as the primary author or less as the secondary author on initial publication of a chapter related to the practice of veterinary medicine in a peer-reviewed text book.
- A maximum of 15 hours of CE is granted for individuals serving as a clinical instructor for veterinary students. This cannot be the licensee's primary employment function.
- 2 hours of CE is granted for individuals participating on a state or national committee, board, council or association related to the veterinary profession.
- A maximum of 5 hours of CE may be earned for providing individual supervision to a disciplinarily limited veterinarian.

What is considered proof of CE?

A number of veterinarians will be randomly audited each year for proof that they have complied with the CE requirements. If audited, the licensee shall submit a copy of a letter or certificate of completion showing the licensee's name, number of CE hours earned, the sponsor's name or name of the organization that approved the activity and the date on which the program was held or the activity completed. If the CE is for presenting a CE program, authoring an article or chapter, acting as an instructor, participating on a group or providing supervision to a disciplinarily limited veterinarian see the full rules for specific information.

How long do I need to keep documentation of my CE?

Documentation must be kept for 4 years from the date you apply to renew your license. LARA could request that you submit this documentation as proof at any time during the 4 years.

Information on the opioid training requirement:

Opioids and other controlled substances awareness training is required for everyone renewing a Michigan Controlled Substance license that expires on or after December 31, 2021 (this is not the same date as the start date for veterinarian licenses). Opioid training is also a

requirement now for anyone applying for a new controlled substance license. This is a one-time training. Until there is clarification from LARA, keep your training documentation for as long as you have your controlled substance license.

This training must cover:

- Use of opioids and other controlled substances
- Integration of treatments
- Alternative of treatments for pain management
- Counseling patients on the effects and risks associated with using opioids and other controlled substances
- The stigma of addiction
- Utilizing the Michigan Automated Prescription system
- State and federal laws regarding prescribing and dispensing controlled substances
- Security features and proper disposal requirements for prescriptions

You should expect at least a 3-hour training session. You may also take this training in components at different times. Details of training requirements are in the [Board of Pharmacy Controlled Substances Rules](#).