

NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) RULE

KEY FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

- **No Pre-Approval of CE Activities:** Not ProCert, not the Board, not APTA - just a simple set of guidelines for you to follow as you select CE activities that fit your learning needs.
- **New Categories of Non-Traditional Credit:** Credit for clinical instructors, research, publications, clinical residencies, academic coursework, peer review, and more.
- **Increased Professional Responsibility:** Professional growth is a uniquely personal process and ultimately only you know if an activity achieves your goals. The new CE guidelines define what IS/IS NOT CE but you must apply them to your learning needs.
- **No ProCert or Board Approval:** While ProCert, IACET and others excel at what they do, the Board will no longer use external or internal sources to review CE activities.
- **aPTitude is Elective:** Did you find aPTitude to be a convenient storage spot for your CE records? You can still use aPTitude but it is no longer required. Instead, expect a simplified audit by email.
- **Jurisprudence:** Will now occur once every five years, with both PTs & PTAs on the same schedule.

It's NOT Official Yet -
so how do I comment?

Love It? Hate It?
Let the Board know
through the public
comment survey:
albpt.wordpress.com

Want to know more?

Read the full document here: <https://albpt.wordpress.com/>

2015 Implementation Timeline

- ◆ **March 19:** Board of PT voted to adopt new CE rule
- ◆ **March 20:** New rule filed with Legislative Reference Service (LRS)
- ◆ **April 1:** First official 35 day comment period begins
- ◆ **May 5:** First official 35 day comment period ends
- ◆ **May 14:** Board of PT votes to certify the new rule
- ◆ **May 15:** Certified rule filed with LRS
- ◆ **May 16:** Begin 35 day comment period - opposition only directly to the Legislative Council
- ◆ **June 18:** End 35 day comment period - opposition only to Legislative Council
- ◆ **June 19:** New CE rule goes into effect

Planning Ahead - New Rule, New Freedom, New Process

“If adopted, how will I implement the new CE rule?”

Continuing Education is essentially a four step process.

Step 1 Self-Evaluation: CE is not about a cheap/easy/close-to-home course or a random “just click play” online option. It’s about what YOU need to learn... to grow as a clinician, to improve your clinic, or to better meet the needs of your patients. At its best, CE is based upon a personal, long-term professional growth plan that helps you achieve your learning goals.

Step 2 Activity Evaluation: You must select activities that best achieve your professional growth plan. Whether it’s a brochure in your mailbox, an advertisement in your inbox, or an opportunity from a local facility, ask yourself, “Will this activity take me to where I need to grow?” Then ask yourself if the activity meets the new Alabama CE guidelines.

Step 3 Post-Activity Evaluation: During and after a CE activity, you must ask yourself several questions. “Did this activity maintain/improve or expand my PT knowledge or skills?”, “Was the instructor a subject matter expert?”, “Did the activity achieve the advertised goals?”, “Did it meet the CE guidelines?”. If the answer is “no”, then it is time to look for a new CE activity (and possibly ask the activity sponsor for your money back!).

Step 4: Prepare for Audit: If selected for licensure renewal audit, how will you document your successful completion of the CE requirements? A completion certificate is important but so is the initial advertising. The same documents you evaluated to see if the activity met the guidelines is also your audit proof. Start building your five year CE record. Did you like aPTitude? Loading records there is still an option. Prefer a manila folder or box under the bed? Go for it!



I'm a CE Provider - what do the changes mean to me?

Activities developed for the Alabama market no longer need Board, APTA, ProCert, IACET, etc. approval - all excellent sources/resources but no longer required in Alabama. The new guidelines will now function as a checklist for activity development.

- ◇ Physical Therapy Topic
- ◇ Agenda/Objectives/Goals
- ◇ Evidenced-Based/Best Practice
- ◇ Engagement Timeframes
- ◇ Subject Matter Expert
- ◇ Proof of Completion

Be sure to check out the full guidelines at albpt.wordpress.com and let the Board know what you think on the feedback survey.