

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION RULE**

- **Do I need to get a course approved?** No. The board no longer requires pre-approval of CE activities; not ProCert, not the Board, not APTA – Just a simple set of guidelines for you to follow.
- **How do I determine if a course I want to take is acceptable?** There is a simple set of guidelines contained in the rule defining what is/is not acceptable continuing education activities you must apply as you select CE activities that fit your learning needs. The board has opted to accept new categories of non-traditional continuing education for credit including clinical instructors, research, publications, clinical residencies, academic coursework, peer review, and more.
- **Do I have to complete a Jurisprudence continuing education course for the 2015 renewal?** No. PTs nor PTAs are required to complete a jurisprudence continuing education course for the 2015 renewal period. Jurisprudence requirements will now occur once every five years, with both PTs and PTAs on the same schedule. The next requirement for jurisprudence continuing education will be for the 2020 renewal period.
- **How many CE hours can I complete online?** The board has not set a limit on the number of continuing education hours you may complete online.
- **Am I still required to use aPTitude for recording/reporting my continuing education?** No. You can still use aPTitude as a convenient storage spot for your CE records but it is no longer required. Do you prefer a manila envelope, a filing cabinet, or a box under the bed? Those are acceptable too. Just remember, you are now required to maintain CE records for five (5) years.

It is advised you read the entire rule at [www.pt.alabama.gov](http://www.pt.alabama.gov) by selecting the **Rules & Regulations** tab, select the link to **Administrative Code**, and select **700-X-2-.09 Renewal of License**.

**Tips for Determining if a CE Course is Acceptable:** 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 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 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 (and **required**) 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 envelope or box under the bed? Go for it!