



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION
POLICY STATEMENT**

Title of Policy Statement: Continuing Medical Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response | Policy Statement PO 20-51.3

Issuing Entity: Podiatric Medical Board

Subject Matter: Addressing the impact COVID-19 response measures are having on the podiatric physician profession with regard to meeting the continuing medical education (CME) requirements. The Podiatric Medical Board is extending the expiration of this policy through June 30, 2022, or until the declared state of emergency issued under Proclamation 20-05 is rescinded, whichever is later.

Effective Date: October 21, 2021

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
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**Department of Health
Office of Health Professions
Podiatric Medical Board**

Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

Title:	Continuing Medical Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response	Number: PO 20-51.3
References:	Chapter 18.22 RCW ; WAC 246-922-300 ; WAC 246-922-310 ; WAC 246-12-210	
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Effective Date:	October 21, 2021	
Supersedes:	PO 20-51.2 effective July 15, 2021	
Approved By:	Randy Anderson, DPM Chair, Podiatric Medical Board	

During the state of emergency identified below, it is the policy of the Podiatric Medical Board (board) to accept online¹ courses that meet the requirements of Category 1 or Category 2 as meeting the continuing medical education (CME) requirements in [WAC 246-922-310](#). This policy was initially approved through December 31, 2021 and is now extended through June 30, 2022, or until the declared state of emergency issued under Proclamation 20-05 is rescinded, whichever is later.

The board made this decision in response to the Governor issued Proclamation 20-25 that, for a time, required people to cease leaving their homes except to conduct essential activities or for employment of essential services.

Other circumstances related to completing CME and/or credentialing requirements beyond the individual licensee's control will be considered on a case-by-case basis for extension or waiver under the authority of [WAC 246-12-210](#).

Background

As the spread of COVID-19 continues and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance continues to encourage the restriction of large gatherings, organizations and entities have canceled large professional development events and conferences that included significant continuing medical education opportunities.

Many podiatric physicians, while not explicitly prohibited from providing patient care, have either scaled back or ceased practicing during the COVID-19 pandemic to adhere to the social distancing

¹ Online courses include those that are in-person, remote-attended, or prerecorded.

guidelines. The measures in place attempting to stem the spread of COVID-19 continue to contribute to financial hardship and uncertainty.

As well, without the capability to access expected routinely attended CME offerings and as financial uncertainty increases, podiatric physicians are without the ability and/or the means to meet their CME obligations for renewal of their licenses.

[WAC 246-922-300](#) requires podiatric physicians to complete one hundred (100) hours of CME every two years and [WAC 246-922-310](#) outlines creditable podiatric CME.

[WAC 246-12-210](#) states: “A practitioner may be excused from or granted an extension of continuing education requirements due to illness or other extenuating circumstances. The profession’s regulatory entity determines when the requirements may be waived or may grant an extension.”

In summary, due to the state of emergency it is the Podiatric Medical Board’s policy to accept online courses that meet the requirements of Category 1 or Category 2 as meeting the CME requirements in [WAC 246-922-310](#). This policy was initially approved through December 31, 2021 and is now extended through June 30, 2022, or until the declared state of emergency issued under Proclamation 20-05 is rescinded, whichever is later.

Other circumstances related to completing CME and/or credentialing requirements beyond the individual licensee’s control will be considered on a case-by-case basis for extension or waiver under the authority of [WAC 246-12-210](#).