

276-10-.02 Continuing Education.

(1) Unless the Board gives written notice to each licensed dispenser prior to the date thereof, courses offered by the following are recognized by the Board as means of acquiring hours to meet the requirement of continuing education for license renewal provided the courses are directly related to the professional growth and development of hearing aid dispensers.

- (a) International Institute for Hearing Instrument Studies.
- (b) International Hearing Society.
- (c) Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals.
- (d) American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- (e) Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- (f) American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Inc.
- (g) Georgia Academy of Audiology.
- (h) College courses taken for credit or through official audit or seminars sponsored by such colleges.

(2) All educational opportunities other than those offered by various state approved/sanctioned academies, societies and associations require prior approval from the Board prior to the scheduled date of such program. Applications for approval must include sponsor, date, location, subjects, scope, instructors, qualifications of instructors, and classroom hours for each subject.

(3) A hearing aid dispenser must obtain a minimum of fourteen (14) hours of continuing education per biennium. Of these hours, two (2) must be in the medical area, two (2) must be in jurisprudence (Georgia laws and rules)/ethics, two (2) must be in patient management. The remainder of hours may be obtained as product specific or on the topic of practice building.

(a) Approved areas of study to satisfy the two (2) hours in the medical area are:

- 1. Anatomy and physiology;
- 2. Diseases of the ear;
- 3. Disease control;
- 4. Otoscopy.

(b) Approved areas of study to satisfy the two (2) hours in patient management are:

- 1. Testing;
- 2. Rehabilitation;
- 3. Counseling;
- 4. Impressions of the ear.

(4) The method of reporting continuing education shall be by audit as follows:

(a) Each licensed hearing aid dispenser shall be responsible for maintaining certificates of attendance (and supporting documentation as appropriate) for continuing education courses taken to satisfy the requirements for continuing education for a period of four (4) years from the date of attendance;

(b) The staff of the Professional Licensing Boards shall audit the continuing education of a percentage of licensees for compliance with all rules and regulations. This percentage shall not be less than 25%, but shall not exceed 30% of the licensed Hearing Aid dispensers, randomly selected, in the State per biennium;

(c) At the time of license renewal, each dispenser shall certify to the Georgia State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers that he/she has completed the continuing education credits required for license renewal;

(d) In the event a licensee, who is audited, fails to submit certificates of continuing education attendance, or other documentation, of having satisfied the continuing education requirements for license renewal, the application will not be processed until all continuing education requirements are met; and

(e) A licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements shall be subject to disciplinary actions by the Board.