



SP-R003:

Continued Education Requirements

Approved date:

Amended:

Next review date:

Note to Readers: *In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that governs chiropractic practice, the legislation prevails.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors (**NSCC**) is the regulatory authority for the practice of chiropractic in the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors (NSCC) serves and protects the public interest to advance ethical and competent chiropractic care in Nova Scotia.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Standard of Practice are:

- To ensure chiropractic registrants in Nova Scotia continue professional development throughout their practice
- To improve the care of patients using evidence-informed and current knowledge of health care professionals
- To encourage lifelong learning in registrants

3. DEFINITIONS

The following terms have the following meanings when used in this Standard of Practice:

“continued education”

“approved continued education” or **“approved credit”** or **“approved course”** means that approved by the Continued Education Committee of the NSCC.

4. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Continued Education (CE) is required of all registrants of the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors

- A. As per the *Chiropractic Act and Regulations* each NSCC member is required to complete twenty-four (24) hours of approved CE every two (2) years.
- B. Approval for CE courses is obtained through the Board of the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors (NSCC) appointed Continuing Education Committee.

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- C. Of the total twenty-four (24) hours of approved continued education needed every two (2) years, a **maximum of twelve (12) hours** can be from Category “B” courses.
- D. Of the total twenty-four (24) hours needed, a **maximum of twelve (12)** or one half of the total number of hours required can come from long distance learning.
- E. The CE committee shall consider not only the quality of the continuing education seminar, as presented, but also the amount of material presented per seminar that may or may not be considered relevant to chiropractic education. Most seminars are approved for 1 hour of CE for each 50min spent in classroom.
- F. Other activities may be submitted for approved credit: examples include but are not limited to:
 - a. Authoring an article for publication in a peer reviewed journal: The Continuing Education Committee appreciates the volume of work required to research, prepare, submit, and receive approval for publication in a peer reviewed journal. Any articles approved for publication in a peer reviewed journal will be approved for 12 hours of Category A CE.
 - b. University courses: The Continuing Education Committee appreciates the volume of work required to complete university courses. Any course work towards a BSc, Master’s Degree, PhD or other related medical field will be approved for a maximum of 24 hours of CE with no carry over permitted. The determination of Category A or Category B credit value will be dependent upon the applicability of the material being studied in relation to patient care (as noted above).
 - c. CMCC courses: Due to the quality of the programs offered through CMCC, the seminars offered by this institution are automatically approved. Members are reminded that the course content must still be assessed for Category A or Category B credit value.
 - d. PACE: The NSCC, as a member of the FCLB, has pre-approved Continuing Education courses offered through PACE.
 - e. Lecturers: If a member is presenting a lecture at a seminar, they are **not** entitled to claim the time spent in lecture towards their CE. Members teaching at a College or University may not present their teaching hours for CE credit.

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- f. Virtual interactive learning: A course/seminar/conference (or similar) that has an interactive component (e.g., Zoom or a similarly designed platform) permitting Members to ask questions and/or seek clarity on the information being presented in real time, will be considered for Regular Category A or Regular Category B CE credit instead of Distance Category A or Distance Category B CE credit.
- g. Virtual passive learning: Any course/seminar/conference (or similar) that does not make use of an interactive platform (e.g., webinar, self-directed learning) will only be considered for Distance Category A or Distance Category B CE credit.
- G. A maximum of twelve (12) CE hours may be carried forward from one (two-year) CE period into the next two-year period. The last twelve hours completed in that time frame will be those carried forward.
- H. The member's two (2) year period will begin on January 1st of the year following the year of registration and will end on December 31st of the next year.
- I. In accordance with the Chiropractic Regulations 39(4) "If a member has not acquired sufficient credit hours at the expiration of the extended time period granted by the Board pursuant to this Section, the member's licence shall be suspended as of the expiry of that time period and may be reinstated in accordance with Section 10."

Registrants are able to review their own CE hours by logging into the member portal and going to the CE tab. It is incumbent on the individual Member to be aware of their own CE hours for their CE cycle.

5. EXEMPTIONS

36. Extension of time for continuing education (per Chiropractic Regulations)

(1) A member whose licence has been suspended pursuant to subsection 8(2) because the member has not acquired the number of continuing education credit hours prescribed in Section 35, may make application to the Continuing Education Committee for an extension of time required to acquire the credit hours before the suspension takes effect.

(2) The application for extension must

(a) be submitted in writing to the Board prior to the expiry date of the member's registration in the year in which the credit hours are to be completed or any other date set by the Board;

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(b) must state the circumstances regarding the request for extension of time, the time frame for completion of the credit hours and the means by which these continuing education hours will be fulfilled, in addition to other necessary information requested by the Board; and
(c) be accompanied by a one-time, non-refundable application fee as set by the Board.

(3) The Board shall render its decision as to the granting of the extension of time within 30 days of submission of the application.

6. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Chiropractic Act, 1999

2 (c) “chiropractic” means professional services usually performed by or under the supervision of a chiropractor and includes

- (i) diagnosis, examination and treatment of persons principally by hand and without the use of drugs or surgery of the spinal column, pelvis, extremities and associated tissues, and
- (ii) such services as approved by the regulations;

2(d) “chiropractor” means a person who is licensed to practise chiropractic under this Act;

2(e) “College” means the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors;

Chiropractic Regulations

Continuing education

35 (1) Every person practising chiropractic in the Province must complete a minimum of 24 hours of chiropractic continuing education as determined by the Board in every 2-year period.

(2) For new registrants, the period referred to in subsection (1) commences on December 31 of the year of registration.

(3) Members shall consult Board policy for other areas of interest and sources of post-graduate and continuing education, such as conventions, symposiums and seminars, that are considered to be appropriate to fulfil the requirements of subsection (1).

Extension of time for continuing education

36 (1) A member whose licence has been suspended pursuant to subsection 8(2) because the member has not acquired the number of continuing education credit hours prescribed in Section 35, may make application to the Continuing Education Committee for an extension of time required to acquire the credit hours before the suspension takes effect.



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- (2) The application for extension must
 - (a) be submitted in writing to the Board prior to the expiry date of the member's registration in the year in which the credit hours are to be completed or any other date set by the Board;
 - (b) must state the circumstances regarding the request for extension of time, the time frame for completion of the credit hours and the means by which these continuing education hours will be fulfilled, in addition to other necessary information requested by the Board; and
 - (c) be accompanied by a one-time, non-refundable application fee as set by the Board.
- (3) The Board shall render its decision as to the granting of the extension of time within 30 days of submission of the application.
- (4) If a member has not acquired sufficient credit hours at the expiration of the extended time period granted by the Board pursuant to this Section, the member's licence shall be suspended as of the expiry of that time period and may be reinstated in accordance with Section 10.