

Continuing Education Policy

A continuing education (CE) committee shall be established by The Pharmacy Council and it shall be comprised of five (5) members who should be practicing pharmacists and including a chairperson. The objectives of the continuing education committee shall come from the Pharmacy Council.

Establishment

The Continuing Education Committee was instituted to ensure that all pharmacists meet the educational requirements before registration and re-registration according to international standards and as set by the Pharmacy Council.

Composition

The Continuing Education Committee shall constitute five (5) members who are practicing pharmacists.

Tenure

The members of the Continuing Education Committee are to be in tenure for three (3) years and may be reinstated for further tenure.

Quorum

Three (3) members of the Continuing Education Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Remuneration

The members of the Continuing Education Committee shall be paid remuneration or fees for his or her services as a member.

Functions of the Continuing Education Committee

- To provide CE approved by the Pharmacy Council as per guidelines.
- To ensure that pharmacists are aware of continuing education sessions.
- To keep records of the CE credits obtained by all practicing pharmacists in St. Lucia.
- To provide evidence that pharmacists have met the minimum credit requirement of six (6) credits and show evidence of such by documentation.

Continuing Education Credit

One hour of CE shall be worth one and a half (1.5) credits or such credits seen fit by the Pharmacy Council after evaluation of the CE session.

Methods of Operation

Presentations

Presenters must ensure that CE presentations do not influence or appear to influence objectivity, independence, or fairness in clinical and professional judgment of the pharmacists.

Pharmacists participating in continuing education programs or preparing written material on drug therapy should deliver fair and unbiased presentations.

CE Credits

All persons and or organizations must submit a copy of their CE presentation to the Pharmacy Council for allocation of their CE credits from one month in advance. The Pharmacy Council in receipt of such request will evaluate what is presented on paper or in electronic format and then send a representative to attend the session to further evaluate the CE session, after which the Council may choose to change its first allocation of CE credits.

Resident Pharmacists

Persons re-registering to practice pharmacy in St. Lucia shall have to show documented evidence of having completed CE credits equivalent to fifteen (15) credits or fifteen hours (15) the previous year.

CE sessions which are face to face shall make up six (6) credits or six hours (6) and must be obtained from Pharmaceutical Association of St. Lucia Inc.

The other nine (9) credits must be sanctioned by the Pharmacy Council and may be on any topic geared toward professional development. Of these nine (9) credits three (3) must be face to face and the other six (6) could be in any form including internet based. For face to face CE's not evaluated by the Pharmacy Council no more than half the allotted credits will be awarded.

CE's completed using online CE providers e.g. Medscape, Powerpak, Rx school etc. are acceptable for up to 0.5 credits. The other recommended sources of these CE (nine) credits are the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP), Organization Of Eastern Caribbean States/Pharmacy Procurement Service(OECS/PPS), The St. Lucia Medical and Dental Association(SLMDA), St. Lucia Council of Nurses, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and their local distributors, American Society of Health System Pharmacists(ASHP), University of the West Indies(UWI) and any professional body which, when the Pharmacy Council investigates, is a qualified and legitimate provider of CE. Certificates must be presented at registration.

The Pharmacy Council reserves the right to reject CE's or allocate fewer credits if it is not satisfied with the provider, quality of CE, and authenticity of CE credits after careful evaluation.

Persons not meeting the minimum CE requirements before registration or re-registration will be given the opportunity to do so (three months grace period). If it cannot be completed or if there is insufficient time to complete CE credits before registration or re-registration then the applicant will have to wait for the following registration period with the required CE credits for registration.

Persons not meeting CE requirements before registration and reregistration will not be issued a license to practice and therefore not be fit to practice pharmacy in St. Lucia.

These requirements shall be adhered to by public sector, private sector and NGO pharmacists and no exceptions will be made.

Non Resident Pharmacists

Persons registering or applying for registration to practice pharmacy in St. Lucia shall have to show documented evidence of having completed CE credits equivalent to fifteen (15) credits or fifteen hours (15) the previous year before they apply to practice in St. Lucia and this will have to be authenticated by the Pharmacy Council of their country or wherever they last practiced and then by the Pharmacy Council of St. Lucia.

Report to Pharmacy Council

The Continuing Education Committee shall give a report to the Pharmacy Council on any information that the Pharmacy Council may require regarding its operations.

Report of Proceedings

The Continuing Education Committee shall submit to the Pharmacy Council a quarterly report of its proceedings during its tenure.

Fees

After overheads are met all revenue collected or generated for Continuing Education activities will be submitted to the Pharmaceutical Association of St. Lucia Inc. (PASLInc), and these monies will be accounted by the treasurer of PASLInc.