



ISSUE MEMORANDUM

DATE	February 1, 2019
TO	California State Board of Optometry (CSBO)
FROM	ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE Shara Murphy, Executive Officer prepared by Matt McKinney, Enforcement Analyst
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #9B – Practice and Education Committee Report from January 11, 2019

The Practice and Education Committee (chaired by Dr. Madhu Chawla, O.D.) met on January 11, 2019 by teleconference and discussed the following items:

1. Continuing Education Course Approval Requests Pursuant to Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 1536
2. The PEC determined thirty-nine (39) of the forty-three (43) courses submitted met the criteria set forth in CCR § 1536 and issued approvals. Four courses were denied, as the PEC determined not enough information was submitted to warrant approval. The Committee directed staff to give feedback to each provider, should the provider wish to resubmit in the future. Recognizing an increase in the courses submitted that feature surgery observations, PEC has directed staff to encourage providers to submit PowerPoint slides or handouts that substantiate the lecture components of such courses. The PEC determined that relatively quick surgical procedures must be grounded in lecture to be approved for continuing education credit.
3. Expiration of Board Approved Continuing Education (CE) Courses

The PEC discussed CE course expiration dates with Board staff. Currently, there is a lack of clarity among staff regarding CE course expiration dates. Staff operates under the presumption that CE courses are valid for a one-year time period.

The PEC directed staff to research approval criteria and timeframes for other DCA Boards and Bureaus, the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE), the American Optometric Association, and other relevant entities to identify current industry practices and make a recommendation of possible regulatory changes to be brought before the full Board.

4. CE Course Certificates Provided Prior to Board Approval

The PEC discussed the many instances in which CE course certificates are provided to licensees prior to course approval by the Board. In the instance of symposiums, often event timelines prevent the course from being approved prior to the delivery of content. Often attendees are given certificates with language regarding a “Pending Board

Approval”. This has created situations in which licensees submit a certificate for an invalid course or submit certificates that cannot be associated with valid course approvals. The PEC entertained ideas of posting publicly the list of approved courses to assist licensees, and notifying providers at the time of submittal that certificates should not be provided unless a valid CSBO course approval number is included on the certificate.

Staff was directed to research possible solutions and provide the PEC an update at a future meeting.

5. CE Course Providers Issuing Certificates Without Necessary or Clear Information

Board staff relies on the certificates issued by CE providers to contain enough information to determine whether the licensee is in compliance with the CE requirements. A number of certificates have been identified as having no course title, date, or lacking provider information necessary to make those determinations.

The PEC entertained ideas of approving individual courses within a symposium, adding suffix letters to course numbers (similar to COPE approved courses), and requiring providers to list each course individually with the approval number on a certificate containing multiple courses.

Staff was directed to research possible solutions and provide the PEC an update at a future meeting.