

# NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA LICENSED RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024



RESPIRATORY  
CARE BOARD  
OF CALIFORNIA

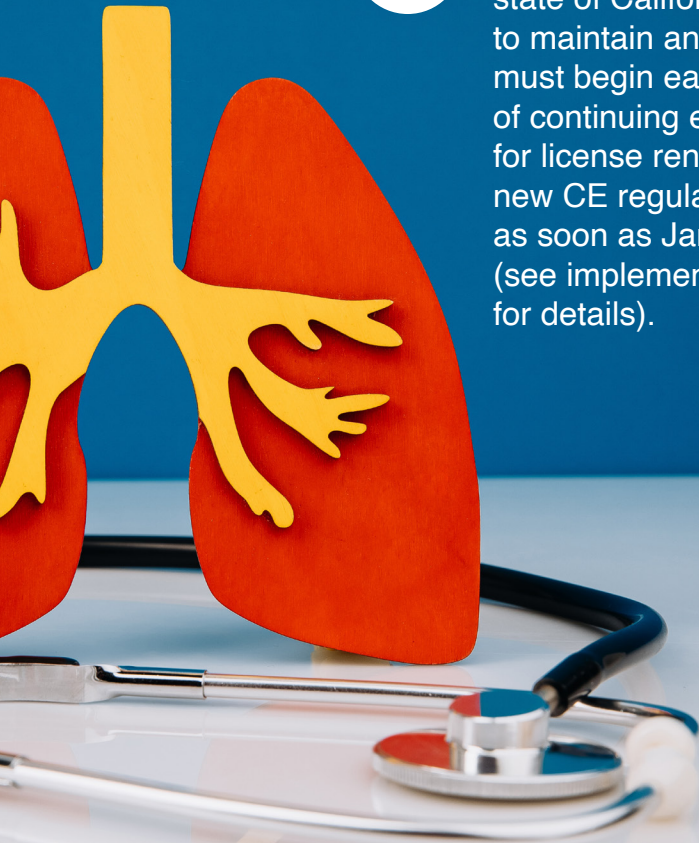


# Continuing Education Requirements Effective January 1, 2024

The Respiratory Care Board of California (RCB) has adopted new continuing education (CE) requirements in line with its most recent workforce study and strategic plan. Currently, respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) must complete 30 hours of CE with two-thirds (20 hours) directly related to the clinical practice of respiratory care every renewal cycle. The new regulations still require 30 total hours of CE, but now provide new framework and format requirements.



All respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) in the state of California who wish to maintain an active license must begin earning 30 hours of continuing education (CE) for license renewal under a new CE regulatory framework as soon as January 1, 2024 (see implementation schedule for details).



## New CE Framework

A total of 30 hours of CE is required every two-year renewal cycle as described below:

At least 25 of the 30 required CE hours shall be completed in the following content areas:

### **RCP Leadership**

A minimum of 10 hours must be directly related to RCP leadership and include:

- Qualified precepting of respiratory care students.
- Effective communication in health care.
- Training for educators who provide clinical respiratory care practice instruction.
- Training in case management, health care financial reimbursement, health care cost containment, or health care management.
- The Law and Professional Ethics course that is required every other renewal cycle.

### **Respiratory Care Clinical Practice**

A minimum of 15 hours must be directly related to the clinical practice of respiratory care and include:

- Training on the practice of respiratory care.
- Successful completion of approved credentialing or certification examinations.

The remaining five CE hours may be earned through courses that meet the criteria above or courses that are indirectly related to the clinical practice of respiratory care including attendance at meetings provided by the Respiratory Care Board, California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC), or American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) as designated by and at each provider's discretion.

## **New CE Format**

A minimum of 15 of the 30 required CE hours must be earned from live courses or meetings which include:

In-person lecture educational sessions that are part of conventions, courses, seminars, workshops, work site education, instructor-led skill days, lecture series, and online meetings with participatory interaction between the licensee and the instructor via computer networks or the internet such as via webcasts, video conferences, and audio conferences in which the licensee can directly interact with the instructor in real time during the instructional period.

## **Approved Course Providers**

All courses must be provided by or approved by one of the following approved providers. The Board has approved different providers depending on the mode of delivery of the course.

### **Approved Providers for All Modes of Delivery**

1. Any post-secondary institution accredited by a regional accreditation agency or association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. A health care facility licensed by the California Department of Public Health.
3. AARC, CSRC, and all state societies directly affiliated with AARC.
4. American Medical Association.
5. California Medical Association.
6. California Thoracic Society.
7. American College of Surgeons.
8. American College of Chest Physicians.
9. American Heart Association.
10. American Lung Association.
11. Allergy and Asthma Network.
12. Society for Critical Care Medicine.
13. National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

## **Approved Providers for Live, Real-Time Delivery**

1. Any entity previously identified in Nos. 1-13 as an approved provider for all modes of delivery.
2. The California Board of Registered Nursing.
3. The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

## **Approved Credential Examinations**

The Board will approve 15 hours of CE (toward respiratory care clinical practice CE) for the award of any of the following credentials after successful completion of the respective examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care. The 15 hours of CE is only approved for initial credentialing:

- Adult critical care specialist (ACCS).
- Certified pulmonary function technologist (CPFT).
- Registered pulmonary function technologist (RPFT).
- Neonatal/pediatric specialist (NPS).
- Sleep disorders specialist (SDS).
- Asthma educator specialist (AE-C).
- Registered respiratory therapist (if not required at the time of initial licensure).

## **Approved Certification Examinations**

The Board will approve 15 hours of CE for each initial certification and five hours of CE for each recertification (toward respiratory care clinical practice CE) for a licensee's successful completion of the following certification examinations:

- Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), offered by various providers.
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), offered by various providers.
- Pediatrics Advanced Life Support (PALS), offered by various providers.
- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), offered by various providers.
- Asthma Educator Certified (AE-C), provided by the National Asthma Educator Certification Board.

The Board will approve the following certifications for initial certification only and for the number of hours given by the provider:

- Pulmonary rehabilitation (provided by AARC and the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation).
- Tobacco and smoking cessation (provided by AARC).
- COPD educator (provided by AARC).

CE credit will not be granted for 1) any review and/or preparation courses for examinations, 2) basic life support, 3) the renewal, recredentialing, or recertification of any certification or credential not expressly identified, or 4) employment training/courses unrelated to respiratory care.

### **Earning CE Credit as A Preceptor**

You may earn “live” CE hours for “leadership” credit for becoming involved as a preceptor (responsible for providing direct supervision and clinical instruction of one or more students in a respiratory education program) if you meet all of the following requirements:

1. Hold a valid, current, and unrestricted RCP license.
2. Hold a current and valid registered respiratory therapist credential.
3. Practiced a minimum of 4,000 hours as an RCP within the five years immediately preceding the date preceptor services are provided.
4. Completed a preceptor course within the last four years from the current date of expiration for the license, provided by AARC, CSRC, or a licensed health facility using AARC or CSRC course materials.
5. Employed by a licensed facility to provide patient care as an RCP.



**The first group to be affected by the new CE requirements are licensees with a December 31, 2023, license expiration date.**



If you meet these qualifications, you can earn two times the actual CE hours provided for completing the preceptor course (noted on page 6) up to six hours. For example, if the preceptor course is three hours, you may claim six hours.

Preceptors responsible for direct supervision and instruction to students in a patient-care setting in their role as an RCP employed to provide patient care may claim the following CE earned during any one renewal cycle period:

- Five CE hours for 500 to 999 hours of preceptor supervision and instruction.
- 10 CE hours for 1,000 to 1,499 hours of preceptor supervision and instruction.
- 15 CE hours for 1,500 or more hours of preceptor supervision and instruction.

Records that clearly indicate student(s) supervised, the hours precepted on each date, and written time logs signed or initialed by the education program's clinical director should be retained for a period of four years from the date of instruction. A form is available on the RCB website for tracking purposes.





An RCP who serves as an instructor of the preceptor course for preceptors may also qualify for up to 10 hours of CE credit. Please visit the RCB website at [www.rcb.ca.gov](http://www.rcb.ca.gov) and review the CE webpage for licensees.

Please note: There are no requirements in order to participate as a preceptor at your employment. These requirements are only if you want to claim CE credit for your involvement as a preceptor.

### **New CE Requirements Implementation**

The new regulations will take effect in fall 2023 and will be implemented beginning January 1, 2024, with a two-year transition period that ends December 31, 2025.

The first group to be affected by the new CE requirements are licensees with a December 31, 2023 license expiration date. If your license expires on that date, you must begin to earn CE under the new requirements beginning January 1, 2024, in order to meet the new CE requirements that will be in full effect for the December 31, 2025 license renewal. Following is a schedule for all renewal dates during the transition.

<b>RENEWAL DATE</b>	<b>NEW CE EARNED</b>	<b>NEXT RENEWAL</b>
Dec. 31, 2023	1/1/24–12/31/25	Dec. 31, 2025
Jan. 31, 2024	2/1/24–1/31/26	Jan. 31, 2026
Feb. 29, 2024	3/1/24–2/28/26	Feb. 28, 2026
Mar. 31, 2024	4/1/24–3/31/26	Mar. 31, 2026
Apr. 30, 2024	5/1/24–4/30/26	Apr. 30, 2026
May 31, 2024	6/1/24–5/31/26	May 31, 2026
June 30, 2024	7/1/24–6/30/26	June 30, 2026
July 31, 2024	8/1/24–7/31/26	July 31, 2026
Aug. 31, 2024	9/1/24–8/31/26	Aug. 31, 2026
Sept. 30, 2024	10/1/24–9/30/26	Sept. 30, 2026
Oct. 31, 2024	11/1/24–10/31/26	Oct. 31, 2026

RENEWAL DATE	NEW CE EARNED	NEXT RENEWAL
Nov. 30, 2024	12/1/24–11/30/26	Nov. 30, 2026
Dec. 31, 2024	1/1/25–12/31/26	Dec. 31, 2026
Jan. 31, 2025	2/1/25–1/31/27	Jan. 31, 2027
Feb. 28, 2025	3/1/25–2/28/27	Feb. 28, 2027
Mar. 31, 2025	4/1/25–3/31/27	Mar. 31, 2027
Apr. 30, 2025	5/1/25–4/30/27	Apr. 30, 2027
May 31, 2025	6/1/25–5/31/27	May 31, 2027
June 30, 2025	7/1/25–6/30/27	June 30, 2027
July 31, 2025	8/1/25–7/31/27	July 31, 2027
Aug. 31, 2025	9/1/25–8/31/27	Aug. 31, 2027
Sept. 30, 2025	10/1/25–9/30/27	Sept. 30, 2027
Oct. 31, 2025	11/1/25–10/31/27	Oct. 31, 2027
Nov. 30, 2025	12/1/25–11/30/27	Nov. 30, 2027

During this transition, as long as you have 15 hours of CE directly related to the practice of respiratory care and another 15 hours that meet the old requirements or the new requirements or a combination of both, your CE will be accepted for renewal of your license. However, beginning with your “Renewal Date” above, all CE earned thereafter must meet the new CE requirements.

**Please visit RCB’s CE webpage for more detailed information.**

**Respiratory Care Board of California**

Website: **[www.rcb.ca.gov](http://www.rcb.ca.gov)**

Email: **[rcbinfo@dca.ca.gov](mailto:rcbinfo@dca.ca.gov)**





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