

License Renewal Update: Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners

by Barbara Shepherd

Online License Renewal is Coming!

The Board is pleased to announce its Online License Renewal System, appearing on the Board's website in late April. Most licensees have requested online renewals and share the Board's excitement, but for licensees who are not comfortable with computers or working online, Deborah Bruce, the Board's Executive Director, has a solution. Bruce says, "Take your 10-year-old child or grandchild with you to your local library and have him, or her, help you renew online, using the computers provided by the library. These kids are a whiz at this."

The online process takes only a few moments and should free the licensee's office staff from making phone calls to the Board to ask questions like: "I mailed Dr. Doe's renewal form yesterday. Did you get it?" A licensee who renews online will know immediately if his renewal has been received by the Board and can anticipate his renewed license will be mailed to him within 10 days – no phone calls needed. Additionally, no proof of CMEs needs to be mailed or faxed to the Board, saving more paper, time and phone calls for the physician's office.

Next year, every license will have to be renewed online. To make for an easy transition, the Board Staff will man a Help Desk this year, with extended hours, to assist physicians with questions or problems while they renew online for the first time. A staff member will be available by phone 7AM-11PM Monday through Friday (9AM-11PM Saturday and Sunday) in May and June 2009 to answer questions about CME Hours, Proper Prescribing Credit, which Fee(s) to pay, Practice Setting Codes and the new Modified Specialty Codes. This service is in addition to technical questions like helping physicians log on to the Online License Renewal System and any other assistance they may need while filling out the online screens. To renew online, licensees will need:

1. An e-mail address. (Check our website for those who provide these free.)
2. CME data: Attendance date(s), provider and number of hours awarded.
3. Proper Prescribing data: Attendance date(s), provider and number of hours awarded.
4. Credit Card or Debit Card.

The Help Desk will not be staffed by Board personnel in 2010; it will be available on a limited basis and will be staffed by ok.gov personnel who will only be able to help licensees during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, with logon difficulties and technical system problems. That Help Desk will not be familiar with licensing, codes, fees, CME and other renewal issues. The Board encourages all licensees to renew online this year to take advantage of the Board Staff's expertise and willingness to help.

All Oklahoma licenses will expire June 30, 2009.

CME requirements for license renewal have not changed:

In order to renew an active Oklahoma license, physicians must have completed sixteen (16) hours of Continuing Medical Education between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. CME must be AOA-approved Category 1A or 1B hours. (AMA hours usually do not receive AOA-Category 1 credit. Licensees who rely on AMA hours should contact the AOA immediately to see if their allopathic-sponsored CME hours comply. The form to submit to the AOA for credit is on their website and our homepage.) If licensees practice in Oklahoma, they must also have one (1) hour of Proper Prescribing every other year; this course must have been attended since July 1, 2007 for renewal this year. NOTE: For those in a residency or fellowship, or have been on active-duty military, any time between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, they are exempt from CME and Proper Prescribing requirements.

Around the first of April, each licensee should receive a postcard similar to the one below:

Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners 4848 North Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 100 Oklahoma City, OK 73105	
	IMPORTANT NOTICE LICENSE RENEWAL INFORMATION
CME Hours Recorded: 14 Last Proper Prescribing: June 28, 2007 Office Code: 2008-8000	Jane Doe, D.O. 123 Any Name Boulevard Somewhere City, OK 73000

In the sample postcard above, Dr. Doe can see that she needs 2 more AOA-approved Category 1 hours to meet the 16-hour CME requirement and needs to take a Proper Prescribing course before she can renew her license this time.

**Be among the first to renew
when the system goes live!**

**Projected starting date is late April.
Check the website for updates.**

www.osboe.ok.gov

Extended hours (May-June 2009)
for online renewal:
7AM-11PM Monday-Friday and
9AM-11PM weekends!

Board Staff manning the
Help Desk in 2009:
Deborah, Hugh, Rodney and Barbara

Take advantage of us!
We're here for you.