Frequently Asked Questions

New Continuing Education Requirements For Naturopathic Physicians

Q. It appears from the brochure that the Board of Naturopathy’s (board) continuing education (CE) cycle will be changing to a January to January cycle? Is that true?

A. No, the CE cycle still coincides with your birthdays; it simply changes starting in 2021 from a one year cycle to a two year cycle.

Q. Will these requirements be retroactive?

A. No, CE that is due in 2020 will still be at the 20 hours and on January 1, 2021, the new requirements take effect.

Q. For Category 1, will pre-recorded offerings from entities that are identified as board approved naturopathic education organizations count?

A. Yes, so long as there is an examination you must pass to be awarded a certificate of completion.

Q. Is this true for Category 2 as well?

A. Yes.

Q. What does “specific to naturopathy” mean?

A. It means what is defined as naturopathic scope of practice, as outlined in RCW 18.36A.040.

Q. Do the 15 hours of pharmacology need to come only from courses in Category 1?

A. The pharmacology requirement can be fulfilled from courses in either Category 1 or Category 2.

Q. What if I don’t agree with the new rule? Is there a way to ask the board to change the rule?

A. The Administrative Procedures Act (chapter 34.05 RCW) provides a process for individuals to petition a state agency (in this case, the board) to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. In addition, the Office of Financial Management has created a petition form for that purpose. Additional information on this process can be found in Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Please note that if the board receives a petition and determines to consider changes to their CE rule, rulemaking cannot begin until the CE rule is officially effective, which is January 1, 2021.