

The College Enhances Continuing Education (CE) Policy

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ENHANCEMENTS

The Quality Assurance (QA) committee of the College is committed to ensuring that CE, which is accredited for the purpose of fulfilling section 73 of the Bylaws, is meaningful. By this, we mean that all accredited CE activities are free of commercial influence, support registrants to provide current, high quality optometric services which positively affect patient outcomes and are safe, effective and ethical. In addition to assuring these goals, the enhancements are intended to simplify and add clarity to CE policy while allowing for the implementation of OE TRACKER (OET). Using OET, the College will audit all enrolled for completion of their mandatory CE program in order to renew their registration.

Registration renewal fees are the principal funding source for the administration of the College. We are dedicated to using your College's resources prudently, fairly and efficiently. OET fees will be paid by the College. As we are committed to dealing with registrants in an equitable manner, those who choose not to enroll in OE Tracker will also be audited for completion of their mandatory CE program prior to renewing their registration.

Commencing November 1, 2017 OE TRACKER will be implemented *for those of you who have consented to enrolment.*

The College will use OET to confirm your CE credits, eliminating the need for you, in the future, to retain paper certificates for CE credits uploaded to OET. **Note:** *you will still be required to retain paper certificates obtained prior to November 1, 2017, for seven years.*

Implementation of OET will enable your College to efficiently audit all enrolled registrants for completion of their mandatory CE program in order to renew their registration. It is quick efficient and uses far fewer administrative resources than the alternative.

For those of you who have not consented to enrolment

You will be required to submit your CE credits, CE Recording form and the associated administrative fee to the College, by registered mail, in order to renew your registration.

SUMMARY – What will change

The College has approved amendments to Policies, Quality Assurance, Part 1 – Continuing Education Requirements. The amended Policies may be viewed [here](#), and will come into force on November 1, 2017. They will include the following changes:

- All registrants will be audited for completion of the QA program requirements prior to registration renewal each year.
- OE TRACKER will be implemented for registrants who have consented to enrolment.
- Definitions of “accredited program”, “approved program provider”, “approved program” and “registration year” have been provided for additional clarity.
- The table of CE activities has been simplified, removing several activities which do not meet the criteria stated above and moving others to the “Exemption” section.
- CE credit for CPR certification or recertification has been eliminated. Maintenance of a valid CPR certificate is a condition of licensure.
- Carry forward has been eliminated.

WILL MY REGISTRATION RENEWAL IN OCTOBER 2017 BE AFFECTED

No, the current College Policies remain in effect until October 31, 2017. Your 2018 registration renewal will not be affected; however, you should note that this will be the last year that carry forward of CE credit will be permitted. In accordance with section 73(1) of the Bylaws, you will be able to carry forward up to 20 hours of excess CE credit, obtained before November 1, 2017, towards your registration renewal in October 2018.