

Clarifying the CPR Certification Requirement for Pharmacists Who Hold an Active Authorization to Administer Injectables

*The author is **Gayle Cotchen, PharmD**, Lead Pharmacist, Magee-Womens Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), a graduate of Duquesne University's School of Pharmacy, and the current acute care institutional member of the State Board of Pharmacy.* Pharmacists who hold an active authorization to administer injectables must maintain a current basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate. Maintaining CPR certification is the legal requirement stated in bullet (a) (2) of *Section 9.2. Authority to Administer Injectable Medications, Biologicals and Immunizations* within Pennsylvania's Pharmacy Act. Board Regulation Section 27.401(3) further notes that the CPR certificate must be issued by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross or a similar health authority or professional body approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy.

While satisfactory completion of a board-approved education course, such as the American Pharmacists Association's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Certificate Program, is only required one time to apply for the authorization to administer injectables, the requirement regarding CPR certification is not a one-time requirement. Current CPR certification must be maintained at all times that an authorization to administer injectables is active. For pharmacists with an active authorization to administer injectables who aren't sure where to renew the CPR certificate, the following information is provided.

- Training center information is provided on the pharmacist's CPR certificate/card.
- [Find a CPR Course](#) is a link to the list of American Heart Association training centers.
- [Register for CPR for Healthcare](#) is the link for classes offered by the American Red Cross.
- A list of approved CPR providers/programs is posted on the Board's website at www.dos.pa.gov/pharm.
- Keep in mind that the Board does not accept programs that are completed entirely online.

Be careful not to confuse the expiration date on your authorization to administer injectables with the renewal date on your CPR certificate/card.

- The authorization to administer injectables is renewed biennially from July to September in even-numbered years.
- The CPR certificate must be renewed every 1 or 2 years, depending on the provider.

For pharmacists who hold an active authorization to administer injectables, the requirement to maintain a current CPR certificate is a continuous requirement. A pharmacist with an active authorization to administer injectables may be subject to disciplinary action for failing to maintain current CPR certification and should place their authorization to administer injectables on inactive status if they do not have current, acceptable CPR certification.

