

State of New Hampshire
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION
DIVISION OF LICENSING AND BOARD ADMINISTRATION

Board of Optometry

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Director



TERMINATION OF STANDING ORDER

PART Opt 402 CONTINUING EDUCATION

The NH Board of Optometry ("Board") on August 23, 2022, hereby declares:

By Motion and Approval of the Board:

1. Amend the Board's January 11, 2022, Standing Order's ("Standing Order") termination date from June 30, 2024, to December 31, 2022, at 11:59 PM.
2. The Standing Order shall terminate at 12:00 AM on January 1, 2022.

The Board terminates the Standing Order on December 31, 2022, as a standing order is not required for licensees to complete continuing education through "live virtual webcasts."

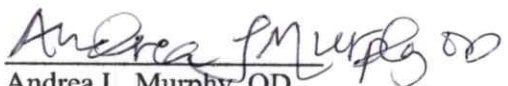
Opt 402.02(a)(1) defines "Formal CE" as "...participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, courses, and related facility based in-services, such as hospital rounds or its equivalent. Formal CE given by the American Academy of Optometry, the American Optometric Association and any state or regional affiliate, or any accredited college of optometry, medicine or pharmacy, or approved by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE), shall be automatically approved as Class I". The definition of "Formal CE" does not limit attendance at conforming continuing education courses only to "in-person" attendance.

This interpretation of the rule is further supported by the definition of Opt 402.04(a)(2) "Alternative CE" as "non-live" CE and includes, but is not limited to, internet, teleconferences and DVD education...." The Optometry Rules specifically state "Alternative CEs" are "non-live" (i.e., *pre-recorded* videos, teleconferences, etc.).

Due to advances in technology, licensees have opportunities to participate in live-virtual CE presentations with real-time active participation with verifiable attendance. Such participation in live-virtual CEs constitutes "Formal CE" participation, just as in-person attendance constitutes "Formal CEs" participation under Opt 402.02.

Date: August 23, 2022.

By Order of the Board


Andrea L. Murphy, OD
Board Chair