

# Continuing Education Requirements

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## Introduction

The New Brunswick Dental Society is mandated to regulate dentists and dental assistants in the public interest. Through NBDS the dental profession is accountable for the quality of dental care that is provided within New Brunswick.

All registrants must keep their knowledge up to date and maintain competency in their practices throughout their careers. All registrants of a dental team must strive to deliver the highest standards of professional care while providing dental services.

The need for registrants to be current in learning and practice has intensified in recent years. Rapid technological change, innovation in health care delivery, new clinical procedures and increasing social awareness are just a few examples of why every dentist and dental assistant must meet their professional responsibility and the need to maintain competence. A commitment to continuing competence and lifelong learning is fundamental to each practitioner's obligation to fulfill this responsibility.

The details of the program and guidelines for fulfilling the requirements are presented in this document.

## Important reminders

- It is the member's responsibility to ensure that credits for each continuing education course/program are reported accurately.
- Failure to comply with standards will result in penalties up to and including suspension of Membership and any requisite appeal remedies.
- Members are encouraged to link learning activities and professional development to their individual practices as a means of enhancing competence.
- The requirements established in this document represent the minimum expected CE standards from members.



# Program Objective

The objective of the Continuing Education Requirement is to promote competence and professionalism. To be eligible for credit, activities must have significant intellectual and/or practical content related to the practice of dentistry. Activities can also be related to the professional responsibilities or ethical obligations of the participant. See below for further information on eligibility criteria.

## Eligibility

Members should consider the following eligibility criteria before submitting a continuing education course for credit. To be eligible for CE credits, an activity must include at least one of the following criteria:

- Have significant intellectual and/or practical content related to oral health
- Improve patient safety
- Improve the efficacy of patient care and treatment
- Address continuing competence of the practitioner
- Address change in practice environments (e.g. cultural sensitivity)
- Address advances in technology that improve patient outcomes
- Relate to the professional responsibilities or ethical obligations of the participant
- Improve overall physical and mental health

Activities eligible for CE credit must align with the present Continuing Education Requirements documents and should be taught or led by a person with appropriate credentials and/or experience related to the subject matter.

Presenters who teach restricted activities must be permitted (either currently or previously) to perform the specific restricted activity being taught.

Information presented at courses should be based on sound scientific principles.

CE activities are not eligible if they:

- Pertain to personal or financial gain.
- Are not in patients' best interest.

How will the course enhance your practice ?



## Credit Requirements

Starting 2025 the members acquire credits in a two-year cycle, with each new cycle commencing January 1st and ending on December 31 of the next year.

### *Credit Hours*

One hour from an accredited source = 1 credit

One hour of clinical dental course from a non-accredited source = 0.3 credit.

Only hours of lecture, instruction or participation are eligible.

For dentists, one hour of Hands on course from a teaching facility = 2 CE credits. Registrar pre-approval is required.

### *Credits Required*

#### *Dentists/Specialists*

- General Dentists – must obtain a minimum of 60 credits during a two-years cycle (See categories in page 5)
- Specialists – at least 50 per cent of the total 60 credits requirement must be obtained through programs pertaining to the specialty in which the dentist is registered.

#### *Dental Assistants*

Dental assistants must obtain a minimum of 24 credits during a cycle of two years (See categories in page 5).

### *Reporting Credits*

- Credits should be reported as they are acquired.
- Registrants are responsible for ensuring that credits toward continuing educations are reported to the NBDS.
- To submit credits, log into your account on the NBDS and submit your CE credits in the continuing education section.
- Registrants must select the category of topic, modality of learning, provide a brief course description and upload supporting documentation.
- If certificate can't be provided, the members must be able to provide a proof of attendance.
- For multiple day courses, report the last day as "Course date"



# Categories of Continuing Education

The following are descriptions of the categories under which members may earn CE credits and the maximum number of credits allowed in each category over a two-year cycle.

<i>Dentists/Specialists</i>			
<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Min Credits</i>	<i>Max credits</i>
CLINICAL DENTAL	Relates directly to the provision of patient care and treatment.	20	No limit
DENTAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT	Relates directly to the operation and management of a dental practice.	No min	20
DENTAL/MEDICAL EMERGENCIES	First aid, CPR, ACLS, and management of dental/medical emergencies.	No min	10
NON-CLINICAL DENTAL	Topics that are applicable to the practice of dentistry.	No min	10
OTHER DENTAL AND SERVICES TO NBDS	Service to the NBDS Board, its Committees, its Regional Societies, and external organization recognized by the Board (CDA, etc.)	No min	25
WELLNESS	Related directly to improving your overall physical and mental health	No min	5

<i>Dental Assistants</i>			
<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Min Credits</i>	<i>Max credits</i>
CLINICAL DENTAL	Relates directly to the provision of patient care and treatment.	12	No limit
NON-CLINICAL DENTAL	Other CE not directly related to the provision of patient care and treatment like CPR, Wellness, service to the profession...	No min	12

## Learning Modalities

Following are examples of CE learning modalities:

- Courses/Lectures
- Dental Scientific Meetings
- Advanced Studies
- Approved Study Clubs
- Dental Teaching/Lecturing
- Online courses



## Accredited Sources of CE

*Following is a list of accredited sources for CE credits.*

*Non-accredited clinical dental courses will only count for 1/3 of the credits.*



- Académie Dentaire Multidisciplinaire
- ADA (American Dental Association) / State Associations
- AGD (Academy of General Dentistry)
- Canadian Armed Forces
- Canadian Dental Associations/Colleges
- Canadian Red Cross/St John Ambulance/Heart & Stroke Foundation
- Canadian/American Universities/Faculties
- CDSPI
- CRD (Clinical Research Dental)
- Dental Corp / ECDG (East Coast Dental Group)
- Canadian Orthodontic Partners
- FDI (World Dental Federation)
- Gordon J. Christensen Clinicians
- National Specialty Associations
- National Suppliers (Henry Schein, Nobel Biocare, Sirona Dental, The Aurum Group, Sunstar...)
- NBDS (Approved study clubs, AGM, Service to NBDS)
- Dentaltown
- Cedam



## Penalties and Extensions of time

Failure to provide the NBDS with evidence of the two-year cycle requirement in continuing dental education will lead to non-renewal of the license to practice dentistry in New Brunswick until all requirements are met, unless compelling reasons, such as sickness or serious family or other situations, can be shown to have prevented the member from complying with this requirement.



Failure to satisfy CE requirements in any two-year cycle will result in a notification by email/phone, by the Registrar confirming the:

1. Deficit in CE credits.
2. Opportunity to rectify deficit;
3. The member will be suspended if the requirements are not met.
4. CE credits submitted to meet the requirements of the past cycle will not count toward the new cycle.

## New Members

New graduates CE credits are prorated from date of graduation

## CE Reporting

All CE's must be reported through the members portal at: <https://nbds.alinityapp.com>

## For more information

For more information, please refer to the continuing education by-law and rules.  
If you have questions, contact us at [licensing@nbdent.ca](mailto:licensing@nbdent.ca) or call [\(506\) 452-8575](tel:5064528575)