



## Rhode Island Department of Health

<b>Policy Area:</b> Regulatory Investigations	<b>Subject:</b> Auditing of CME for Physicians
<b>Title of Policy:</b> Auditing CME	<b>Number:</b>
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### **1. Rationale or background to policy:**

The Department of Health, houses many professional boards including the Board of Medical Licensure & Discipline (BMLD). The mission of the BMLD is *“To protect the public through enforcement of standards for medical licensure and ongoing clinical competence”*.

Continuing medical education is a requirement established in Rhode Island General Law § 5-37-2.1. Recertification <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE5/5-37/5-37-2.1.HTM>

### **2. Policy Statement:**

Physicians are expected and required to complete a minimum amount of CME every 2 years. Topics for CME generally, can be any category 1 approved CME, yet RIDOH does have required hours in various public health topics that are updated periodically in consultation with the Rhode Island Medical Society. ( <http://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=200>). The BMLD will audit CME every renewal cycle of at least 5% of the licensed population, as well as audit licensees upon initiation of a complaint investigation.

### **3. Procedures:**

Staff for the BMLD will conduct a random audit of CME for at least 5% of the licensed population of physicians. Staff will not audit physicians who supply evidence of maintenance of certification in an ABMS approved Board. This random audit will generally be done in August of the even year, after the prior renewal cycle has concluded.

Staff for the BMLD will also routinely audit CME for the prior renewal cycle for any physician who has a complaint opened against them. The notice of audit will be included in the standard complaint opening letter sent by BMLD staff and the response is expected with the response to the complaint.