

DavisPTnetwork and the New York Physical Therapy Association are providing this document to help New York physical therapists and physical therapist assistants understand the basics of the new continuing-education law.

New York State institutes new CE requirements for PTs and PTAs: How does it affect you?

New York State Education Law now requires physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to complete 36 contact hours of approved continuing education to renew their registrations during each 3-year renewal period. To understand what that means to you, take a look at the three questions and answers below.

1. How many contact hours do you need to earn during the current registration period, which started September 1, 2009?

The number of contact hours you'll need to earn during the current registration period will be prorated, depending on when your current registration expires. If you don't know when that is, take a look at your registration and note the expiration date. Then check the chart below to see how many hours you'll need to complete and report by that time.

If your registration is due to be renewed on or after:	You will be required to complete the following number of hours of continuing education:
4/1/10	2
5/1/10	2.5
6/1/10	3
7/1/10	3.5
8/1/10	4
9/1/10	4.5
10/1/10	5
11/1/10	5.5
12/1/10	6
1/1/11	6.5
2/1/11	7
3/1/11	7.5
4/1/11	8
5/1/11	8.5
6/1/11	9
7/1/11	9.5
8/1/11	10
9/1/11	10.5
10/1/11	11
11/1/11	11.5
12/1/11	12
1/1/12	12.5
2/1/12	13
3/1/12	13.5
4/1/12	1
5/1/12	14.5
6/1/12	15
7/1/12	15.5
8/1/12	16
9/1/12	16.5
10/1/12	36

The bottom line is that if your registration is due on or before September 1, 2012, you'll need to earn an average of .5 contact hours a month. If it's due on or after October 1, 2010, you'll need to earn all 36 hours.

2. What activities will be accepted for CE? And where can you find them?

The new law states that courses:

- must be administered by providers that have been approved by New York State
- must contribute to your professional and clinical skills.

You can earn hours in various other ways, such as making a technical presentation at a professional conference or teaching a course at a higher-education institution relating to physical therapy. Yet online continuing-education courses often are the most effective, convenient and affordable ways to complete contact hours, and there isn't any limit to how many courses you may take online through an approved provider, such as [DavisPTnetwork](#).

3. How should you keep track of the contact hours you earn?

Keeping track of the courses you take is essential. When you re-register, you'll need to attest that you completed the required CE hours, and you are required to keep a copy of your Certificates of Completion for 6 years after you complete a course. If you are audited, you must submit these records of completion for each approved continuing-education course or activity when requested.

Learn more about the new CE requirements in New York

To learn more about the new continuing-education requirements in New York and how they affect you, visit the New York State Education Department's site that provides answers to PTs' and PTAs' frequently asked questions about continuing education: "[Continuing Education: Questions & Answers for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants.](#)"

In addition, [click here](#) for access to the statutes and regulations that apply to these continuing-education requirements for physical therapy professionals in New York.

About DavisPTnetwork— A premier source of online physical therapy CE

Approved as a provider in New York, [DavisPTnetwork](#) offers a selection of more than 45 high-quality, affordable CE courses for physical therapists representing over 110 contact hours. Topics range from pediatric patients to geriatric patients, from acute care to rehab settings, and much more. DavisPTnetwork will help you

keep records of your required and completed CE through our online transcript management tool. Plus, you can add CE credits you earn elsewhere—both live and online courses. Are you licensed in more than one state? DavisPTnetwork can also help you track all of your CE for the states in which you're licensed. In addition, links to all of your DavisPTnetwork course completion certificates remain in your DavisPTnetwork course history for 7 years in case you need access to them in the future.

DavisPTnetwork is a partner of NYPTA, so every course that's purchased results in a donation to the organization.