



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon Board of Pharmacy

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 150

Portland, OR 97232

Phone: 971 / 673-0001

Fax: 971 / 673-0002

E-mail: pharmacy.board@state.or.us

Web: www.pharmacy.state.or.us

Statement Regarding Cultural Competency Continuing Education

Adopted August 2014

The Oregon Board of Pharmacy is charged with preserving and protecting the health of our state's citizens in the delivery of pharmacy related healthcare. Oregonians are growing increasingly diverse, and inequities in access to quality health care are apparent according to the Oregon Health Authority's Office of Equity and Inclusion. The Office has identified that racial and ethnic populations, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, low literacy level individuals and rural Oregonians experience health disparities. The Board believes that increasing understanding and awareness of the necessity to provide culturally competent health care is a patient safety priority.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) speaks to the critical importance of healthcare practitioner's awareness and competency in equal care given to patients across cultural lines. The NIH provides the following background to define Cultural Competence: *Culture is often described as the combination of a body of knowledge, a body of belief and a body of behavior. It involves a number of elements, including personal identification, language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions that are often specific to ethnic, racial, religious, geographic, or social groups. For the provider of health information or health care, these elements influence beliefs and belief systems surrounding health, healing, wellness, illness, disease, and delivery of health services. The concept of cultural competency has a positive effect on patient care delivery by enabling providers to deliver services that are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices and cultural and linguistic needs of diverse patients.*¹

Cultural competency continuing education is a life-long process of examining values and beliefs while developing and applying an inclusive approach to health care practice in a manner that recognizes the context and complexities of provider-patient interactions and preserves the dignity of individuals, families and communities. Continuing education in cultural competency should teach attitudes, knowledge and skills to care effectively for patients from diverse cultures, groups and communities. The Office of Equity and Inclusion states that such training enables health care providers to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

Adopted August 2014

The Board recommends and encourages licensees to pursue ongoing continuing education opportunities for cultural competency. For purposes of maintenance of licensure, the Board considers continuing education (CE) in cultural competency to be relevant to the current practice of all licensees, and licensees may use this type of continuing education toward satisfying the required CE hours for license renewal. The Board will document licensees' voluntary participation in cultural competency CE through the license renewal process beginning in 2015.

In order for Oregon to achieve the triple aim of improving health, improving care, and lowering cost, providers must be responsive to the needs of diverse populations. Cultural competency training for health care providers is one method for helping Board licensees adapt to the needs of Oregon's socially and culturally diverse communities.

1. <http://www.nih.gov/clearcommunication/culturalcompetency.htm>