

Hear & Now News

"Supporting Hearing Instrument Providers and The Hearing Impaired Since 1950"

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2

Can I Earn Online CEUs for My State License?

By Robert L. Martin, PhD

Courtesy, The Hearing Journal

As the CEU administrator for AudiologyOnline, Joanne Slater, AuD, said she is often asked if providers can earn online CEUs for their state license. The rules can sometimes be complicated. Here she answers some of the most frequently asked questions.

Q: What exactly is a CEU?

A: Technically, one CEU, as defined by the International Association of Continuing Education and Training, equals 10 hours of coursework, or 10 "clock hours." Because the term CEU is the public domain, usage may vary from one organization or credentialing body to another. I recommend verifying the number of clock hours that you are expected to earn to renew a license, certification, or other credential.

Q: Do many states allow online coursework to earn CEUs for maintaining an audiology or hearing aid dispensing license?

A: There are numerous advantages to online continuing education. The availability of coursework on the Internet and the plethora of devices for delivering online content allow convenient access to quality coursework to all professionals. It is reasonable to expect that regulatory agencies would espouse this mode of learning with the solid presence and continued growth of online learning in higher education. In fact, the vast majority of licensing boards and credentialing bodies do allow at least a portion of their required CEUs to be earned online. Unfortunately, though, some severely limit or even prohibit online coursework, even though a one-size-fits-all approach to learning may be at odds with the best interests of the learner.

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Presidents Message



This year HHP has been active on a few fronts.

With the convention just around the corner we are looking forward to seeing many of our friends and colleagues from across the state. The dates are May 2nd to May 5th at the beautiful Loews Coronado Bay hotel. We will have great presenters at our Managed Care Forum and during our CEU sessions. HHP is also proud to welcome Lauren Stoddard, Meeting Manager and Event Planner. Lauren recently joined our association staff and has jumped right in managing every facet of the convention with Marge Risinger our contracted event planner.

On the legislative front we are pleased to have sponsored SB 1444 a bill that has been authored by Senator Joel Anderson. SB 1444 if passed will authorize our licensing board to adopt regulations to carry out the purposes and objectives of the warranty provision known as the Song Beverly Consumer Warranty act. This provision would allow the Speech Language Pathology Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board to clarify the language surrounding the 30 day trial period. HHP is honored to have sponsored this important bill and will continue to keep our members updated as the bill moves through the legislative process. I would like to thank HHP's Legislative Advocate Tricia Hunter for her work on SB1444.

HHP is currently working on a new website redesign and other media developments such as the newsletter. We expect our new look by the end of May. Do visit HHP at www.HHPCA.org

I truly look forward to seeing you at this year's convention.

Don Tucker
President

In Memory

Lisa Cabiale O'Connor 1937-2012 74, of Mill Valley, peacefully passed away Monday, April 16, 2012 at her home after a long battle with lung cancer. Ms. O'Connor, among her many life accomplishments, served as Chair of the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Licensing Board.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Northern

District 2/3

None scheduled

CENTRAL

District 4/5

January 26

Holiday Inn Airport 9000
W. Airport Drive Visalia, CA

Contact: Tom McKieman,
Jr., BC-HIS 209. 577. 1014

SOUTHERN

District 6/7

Foxfire Restaurant 5717
East Santa Ana Canyon
Rd. Anaheim Hills, CA

Contact: Pat Vanderpool
714. 974. 5400

District 8/9

3260 East Fox Run
Way San Diego, CA

Contact: Maxine Glazebrook
619. 283. 8400

Can I Earn Online CEUs Con't...

Q: Is it correct that in California audiologists can only receive a couple of CEUs per year for an audiology license?

A: In California, the number of hours of continuing education required to renew an audiology license depends on whether the licensee dispenses hearing aids. Dispensing audiologists are required to earn 12 hours of continuing education every year, and only 1.5 hours may be earned through self-study coursework. Non-dispensing audiologists must complete 24 hours of continuing education every two years, of which six may be earned through self-study coursework. These rules are outlined on the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing website. There are no self-study limits imposed on non-audiologist hearing aid dispensers in California at this time.

Q: Many have expressed dissatisfaction with the continuing education opportunities in their state. How can they help you and other online training program advocates for increased options for continuing education?

A: When rules seem particularly restrictive with respect to the learners' options, professionals should write or petition their board to expand those options. Any efforts to instigate change must be widely supported and solicited by the organization's constituents. The boards are charged with several responsibilities to their licensees and the population they serve. Ideally, the boards will recognize the value of maintaining an educated and informed group of professionals through increased continuing education options as a way to protect the needs of the consumers as well.

Q: With emerging technology, what types of

continuing education can we expect to see in the future? Have the states made any provisions for accepting new technology in continuing education?

A: As technology evolves, we can expect more continuing education options to become available. Text courses offered online may feature embedded video and audio files to supplement the written content, with advanced navigational tools connecting the various elements of the course.

We may also see interactive courses where learners are guided through the discovery of different pieces at their own pace. Learning is not always best defined as a linear process, and online education facilitates linear and nonlinear sequencing of learning activities to adequately meet the needs of the individual learner. Finally, virtual simulation may play a significant role in the future of continuing education within our profession. Simulation technologies have already been applied to medical training, as seen in the "Visual Ear Simulator" that allows physicians to obtain simulated, realistic experience in surgical ear procedures.

This instructional technology already exists, and has been implemented in other allied health professions. How state licensing boards and professional associations will embrace these innovative learning technologies for continuing education remains to be seen, and will depend at least in part on how continuing education providers can effectively adapt the activities to satisfy the learning needs of the professional and how well the continuing education provider can quantify and verify the amount of time a learner spends engaged in the activity.

A viable alternative in the interim would be for the licensee to develop an independent study course to meet his specific learning needs. Instead of a

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Executive Directors Report



HHP continues to move at an upwardly mobile pace! We've accomplished a lot in a very short period of time, all while getting to know our Board of Directors and our members. It continues

to be a great joy getting to know all of the caring and professional members of this great association.

Since I last reported, HHP has launched a new membership drive, working to REWARD existing members for ENROLLING new members. Working on a point system, existing members with the most new enrollments have the opportunity to win a new iPad 2 – this is a win/win for everyone! We currently have two front runners– Pat Vanderpool of Siemens Solutions, in Lakewood and Randall Sager of Sears Hearing Aid Center in Concord. The race is on! A winner will be announced later this year.

On the legislative front, HHP is sponsoring a bill, SB 1444, in collaboration with the Speech Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board (SLPA HADB). The bill will give the Board the ability to write regulations to reduce the ambiguity concerning the warranty of Hearing Aids that exists for consumers and providers. Our legislative advocate, Tricia Hunter continues to work hard on this front. Members were asked to send a letter of support to the committee chairs hearing the bill. Please contact our staff if you'd like a Letter of Support template to use in order to participate in the process of ensuring the successful passage of this bill. We will continue to update you through our electronic newsletter on the progress of SB 1444.

On the regulatory front, the SLPA HADB is conducting an Occupational Analysis (OA) for hearing aid dispensers and is seeking qualified

hearing aid dispensers and dispensing audiologists to review information related to the profession of dispensing.

This OA will identify the tasks performed in the dispensing profession and the knowledge required to practice as a licensed dispenser in California. The results of the OA is the basis for licensing examinations, helping to ensure examinations are job-related.

Please go to http://www.slpab.ca.gov/licenses/sme_analysis.pdf for more information if you are interested in participating in this vital service to the State of California and to review criteria needed to be considered by the Board as a Subject Matter Expert.

Finally, new HHP officers will be elected in 2012. Nominations were sent out via e-newsletter earlier this month. We encourage all members to attend the Business Meeting at this year's Annual Conference and cast your vote.

We look forward to continued progress throughout the year, with the addition of a new website and other communication tools that we'll be utilizing to encourage your participation in HHP and to keep you informed of the work being done on your behalf.

Gloria Peterson
Executive Director



Legislative Report

Hearing Healthcare Providers Introduces Bill to Clarify Song Beverly

Honorable Tricia Hunter, Lobbyist

SB 1444, legislation by Senator Anderson was introduced at the end of February to clarify Song Beverly for consumers and dispensers.

The Hearing Dispenser Advisory Bureau had held hearings about the issues consumers were having with the warranty period and proposed introducing legislation to clarify ambiguities in the original language.

When dispenser only provided analogue hearing aids the process of a thirty day trial was pretty simple. As digital hearing aids became more common, the issue of when the warranty period started and ended became confusing.

The Speech Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board (SPLAHAD) reviewed all the issues coming from the Bureau and held an informal hearing on Song Beverly at one of the Hearing Aid Dispensing Committee meetings. It was recommended that legislation be sought to allow the Board to write regulations to define Song Beverly warranty issues for the dispenser and provide a process for the consumer to report problems to the Board. The Department of Consumer Affairs asked the Board to get a sponsor for the bill. Hearing Healthcare Providers offered to be the sponsor.

The bill is very simple language:

The bill has been referred to the Judiciary Committee as well so a second policy committee will be held in April. The bill will go Appropriations because regulations require the Board to spend money to pass them. Finally the bill will go to the floor of the Senate and then repeat the process in the Assembly.

If the bill gets through the full legislative process, the SPLAHAD Board will write regulations to define Song Beverly for dispensers and this process will require hearings to write the language. The Board will hold informal hearings with stakeholders and then formal hearings once language is agreed upon.

Can I Earn Online CEUs Con't...

third party developing and administering the educational activity, the learner himself would create an individual learning plan that includes determination of learning outcomes, identification of appropriate course materials to achieve those outcomes, and documentation of successful completion of the activity. Many states do allow audiologists and hearing aid dispensers to earn CEUs through independent study.

Joanne Slater, AuD, has been an audiologist for more than 14 years with clinical experience in a variety of settings to her credit. She has served as the continuing education administrator and associate editor of AudiologyOnline.com for the past seven years, working with state licensing boards and national and international associations for audiologists and hearing aid dispensers on continuing professional development.





HHP & AHAA a Partnership for Success

OFFERING BUSINESS SERVICES AND BENEFITS TO ITS MEMBERS, AS WELL AS DISCOUNT PURCHASING PRICING



Become an AHAA Associate and get the buying power of the entire AHAA membership. As your source for hearing aids, accessories and related equipment, AHAA will return 2% of the total purchase amount back to HHP/CA. AHAA *now* provides an extensive business-building solutions center along with specialized support for all AHAA members, helping you to stay ahead of the competition. So, activate your free membership today and let AHAA be your “one-stop” source for all your business needs...at the same time supporting HHP.

- Financial Planning and Analysis
- Marketing and Advertising Support
- Business Consultative Services
- Human Resources Support
- Business Implementation Guide
- Choice - Over 30 manufacturer's products to choose from
- Consolidated Billing
- The industry’s most comprehensive slate of training programs
- Document Library
- E-Link Web Design Services

AHAA is the nation's largest network of hearing health care providers, dedicated to ensuring the business success of our associates.

There is strength in numbers. When you become an AHAA associate, you gain access to a consolidated network with unlimited resources that you can utilize to take your business to new markets, more patients and to a higher level of success while supporting your association at the same time.



One Capitol Mall, Suite 320
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 447-1975
www.hhpc.org

Please call for more information





Hearing Healthcare Providers California
 One Capitol Mall, Suite 320
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Phone (916) 447-1975
 Fax (916) 444-7462
 www.hhpca.org

Membership Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Please mark all that apply:

Hearing Instrument Dispenser **Dispensing Audiologist** **Other** _____

Company Name: _____ Years at Present location: _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip: _____ E-mail address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

California License: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Number of years in hearing aid field _____

**I hereby make an application for membership in the Hearing HealthCare Providers/California.
 I agree to abide by the Bylaws and the Code of Ethics of the association and to pay membership dues as annually required.**

Signature _____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to HHP California and return with this application or provide your credit card payment information below.

We accept the following credit cards (please circle only one): **MasterCard** **Visa** **AMEX**

Name on Card _____ CC No. _____

CVC _____ CC Billing Zip code _____

Signature _____ Exp. MM/YY _____/_____

**Please check your appropriate member type
 Schedule of Annual Dues:**

- Regular Member** **\$295.00**
- Additional Member Location** **\$100.00**
- Employee Member** **\$195.00**
- Product Manufacturer/ Service Provider** **\$350.00**
- Retired / Student / Support Staff** **\$125.00**

Please name your referring HHP member
 so we can present them with their recognition
 and reward them for helping Grow HHP Membership!

 Referring Member

Contributions or gifts to the Hearing HealthCare Providers California are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Dues payments are deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

Regular Member – Any Hearing Instrument Dispenser who is in good standing can be a member and will have full rights and privileges of membership including voting and holding office
Additional Member Location – For Members with satellite/branch offices and want Directory listing(s)
Employee Member – Any licensed HID, who is the second, third or more member(s) of an office with a full category member, has full membership privileges, including voting and holding office
Retired Member – Any former Regular Member who is no longer a dispenser of hearing aids but still has an active license may do so at this rate and will have full rights and privileges of regular membership; if license is not active can still join at this rate and can vote but not hold office
Product Manufacturer/Service Provider – Any company with an interest in the production, training and sales of products pertaining to the enhancement of hearing
Support Staff/Temporary Licensee Member – Any person who has been issued a temporary license and/or any non-licensed staff of a regular member may not vote or hold office

Save the Date 2012

> July 19-20, 2012
SLPA HADB Board Meeting

> May 2-4
HHP Annual Convention
Loews Coronado Bay
San Diego, CA

> August 5-6
HHP Board of Directors
Meeting
Burlingame, CA

> October 18-19
SLPA HADB Board meeting

> December 5
HHP Board of Directors Meeting
One Capitol Mall, 2nd
Floor Board Room
Sacramento, CA