

## Maintaining Certification

Techniques and practices in medicine and healthcare continually change. JCAHPO conducts a job task analysis every 3-5 years to validate the changes in technical knowledge and skill required to perform job functions at each level of certification. In order to assure that certificants continue to evolve with the industry's changing needs, the Certification Committee and Board of Directors established the recertification process; a process that requires you to keep current with new developments in the field of ophthalmology through continuing education credits or re-examination. Recertification enables you to demonstrate your continued knowledge to employers, peers and the general public.

An initial certification is valid for 36 months. After that period, recertification is required every three years to maintain the use of the credential. The recertification period begins exactly 36 months from the month and year that you successfully completed all requirements for initial certification. A reminder letter containing the number of credits needed for your level of certification will be issued approximately six-months prior to your recertification date.

To recertify, certificants must comply with continuing education (CE) requirements. All acceptable CE credits are classified as either Group A or Group B, and relate to knowledge needed to perform tasks identified in the JTA. Group A credits are pre-approved by JCAHPO based on medical and scientific content that is specific to, but not limited the exam blueprint. Group B credits are course related to ophthalmology but have little or no relation to the exam blueprint. Certificants who are applying for recertification may choose earning either all Group A credits, or a combination of Group A & B.

### *You can earn Group A credits by:*

- Attending lectures, workshops, or distance-learning courses that have been awarded JCAHPO Group A credit on any of the content areas listed in this handbook.
- Completing an independent study course and quiz that has been awarded JCAHPO Group A credit on any of the content areas listed in this handbook.
- Completing topics on medical ethics, professionalism, coding and regulations that have been awarded JCAHPO Group A credit.
- Review certification exam preparation courses that have been awarded JCAHPO Group A credit.
- Teach or author courses awarded JCAHPO Group A credit. (1:1 basis).

### *You can earn Group B credits by:*

- Attending lectures, workshops, or distance-learning courses that have been awarded JCAHPO Group B credit (topics not listed in this handbook).
- Completing independent study course and quiz that has been awarded JCAHPO Group B credit (topics not listed in this handbook).
- Attending Grand Rounds or Physicians' Continuing Medical Education (CME) in Ophthalmology, Category 1 courses approved by the American Medical Association (2 hours attended=1 credit for COAs, CCOAs, and COTs, and 1 hour attended=1 credit for COMTs.) Courses approved by the Canadian Medical Association are also acceptable in this category on the same basis as above.
- Participating in self-study (4 hours study=1 credit).

You can read journals and books, listen to audiotapes, watch videotapes or CD ROMs, or attend courses that were not awarded credit by JCAHPO or the AMA as long as the topics are related to ophthalmology.

For self-study credits, you must provide complete information on your recertification application showing a list of the materials studied, title and author, the month and year you completed the self-study, and the amount of time spent completing it.

- Teach a course carrying JCAHPO B credit (1 hour taught=1 credit)
- Author or co-author a scientific publication and/or poster. JCAHPO reviews submissions for consideration of credit. Maximum of 5 credits for first author and 3 credits for co-author. Contact JCAHPO Education Department for more details.
- Achieve CPR certification. You can count one Group B credit per card for CPR certification for a maximum of 3 Group B credits per CE cycle.