**State-by-State Practitioner CME Requirements**

Alabama - The State Board of Medical Examiners may, within its discretion and for cause, order and direct that a physician holding a controlled substance registration certificate complete a course or courses of continuing medical education on subjects related to the prescribing, dispensing, administering, or furnishing of controlled substances, which course or courses of instruction may not exceed 25 credit hours of instruction within the calendar year in which the order is entered, and failure to comply shall constitute grounds for suspension of the controlled registration certificate.

Arizona - Dentists are required to obtain 42 hours of continuing education in any of a number of specific course areas, including pain management, and are also required to earn 3 hours of continuing education in chemical dependency (which may include tobacco cessation).

California - All physicians shall complete a mandatory continuing education course in the subjects of pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients, which is a one-time requirement of 12 credit hours; physicians and optometrists are encouraged to take a course in pharmacology and pharmaceuticals; optometrists who are certified to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents must obtain 35 hours of continuing education in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular disease in a combination of prescribed areas, including pain management.

Connecticut – Physicians and dentists must obtain at least one contact hour in one of a specified number of areas, which includes prescribing controlled substances and pain management, not less than every two years.

D.C. - Mayor may establish by rule continuing education requirements, provided that the Mayor shall require that any continuing education requirements for the practice of medicine include instruction on pharmacology which shall: 1) be evidence-based; 2) provide physicians with information regarding the cost-effectiveness of pharmacological treatments; and 3) not be financially supported by any pharmaceutical company or manufacturer.

Florida - Practitioners are required to have one hour of continuing education regarding the uses and abuses of controlled substances and one hour of continuing education on the federal and state laws related to the prescribing of controlled substances every two years. Practitioners must also take a two-hour prevention of medical errors course every two years which includes information on the five most misdiagnosed conditions, including the following: 1) inappropriate prescribing of opioids in patients in whom there have been misdiagnosis or failure to diagnose addiction, psychiatric conditions, and diversion; and 2) prescribing, dispensing, administering, or using non-FDA approved medications and devices. Finally, physicians prescribing or dispensing controlled substances for pain management who qualify by successful completion of 40 hours of in-person, live-participatory AMA Category I or Category IA CME courses in pain management must also document completion of 15 hours of in-person, live-participatory CME in pain management for every year the physician is practicing pain management.

Georgia - Physicians who do not hold a certification in pain management or palliative medicine, and whose opioid pain management patients comprise 50% or more of the patient population must demonstrate competence by biennially obtaining 20 hours of continuing medical education pertaining to pain management or palliative medicine.

Idaho - Optometrists who are certified to prescribe, administer, or dispense therapeutic pharmaceutical agents must attend 12 hours of continuing education every year in courses involving ocular pharmacology and/or advanced ocular disease.

Iowa - Applicants for reinstatement of a physician’s license must provide documentation that they have completed training on chronic pain management within the previous five years. A licensee who regularly provides primary health care to patients in Iowa must complete at least two hours of category 1 credit for chronic pain management every five years. This requirement includes all emergency physicians, family physicians, general practice physicians, internists, neurologists, pain medicine specialists, psychiatrists, and any other physician who regularly provides primary health care to patients.

Kentucky - Physicians who will prescribe or dispense controlled substances to patients at a pain management facility shall successfully complete a minimum of ten hours of Category I continuing medical education in pain management during each registration period throughout the physician’s employment agreement with the facility. Beginning on January 1, 2015, for each three- year cycle, a licensee who is authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances at any time within that cycle shall complete at least 4.5 hours of approved continuing education hours relating to the use of the PMP, pain management, addiction disorders, or a combination of two or more of those subjects. An optometrist who is authorized to prescribe controlled substances shall earn two credit hours that relate to the use of the PMP, pain management, or addiction disorders.

Massachusetts - As a prerequisite to obtaining or renewing a medical license, applicants who prescribe controlled substances must complete appropriate training regarding pain management; identification of patients at high risk for substance abuse; counseling patients about the side effects, addictive nature, proper storage and disposal of prescription medications; and opioid education. Pain management training shall consist of at least three credits of Board-approved continuing professional development.

Michigan - Applicants for renewal of their professional medical license must complete an appropriate number of hours or courses in pain and symptom management. Applicants for license renewal as pharmacists must have at least one continuing education hour in pain management. Applicants for license renewal as dentists must have at least one continuing education hour in pain and symptom management which may include, but is not limited to, courses in behavior management, psychology of pain, pharmacology, behavior modification, stress management, clinical applications, and drug interactions. Applicants for license renewal as optometrists are required to have at least one continuing education hour in pain and symptom management, which courses may include, but are not limited to, courses in behavior management, psychology of pain, pharmacology, behavior modification, stress management, clinical applications, and drug interactions.

Mississippi - Every Mississippi licensee with an active DEA certificate must obtain five hours of continuing education related to the prescribing of medications with an emphasis on controlled substances. Physicians practicing in a pain management medical practice must have 15 hours of live lecture format, Category I CME in pain management for every year the physician is practicing pain management.

Nevada - The board may enact regulations requiring physicians registered to dispense controlled substances to complete at least one hour of training relating specifically to the misuse and abuse of controlled substances during each period of licensure. The board may enact regulations requiring a dentist registered to dispense controlled substances to complete at least one hour of training relating specifically to the misuse and abuse of controlled substances during each period of licensure. The board may enact regulations requiring an optometrist certified to administer and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents and who is registered to dispense controlled substances to complete at least one hour of training relating specifically to the misuse and abuse of controlled substances during each period of licensure.

New Mexico - All health care providers who hold a federal DEA registration and licensure to prescribe opioids shall be required to obtain five hours of pain management continuing education in courses that include: 1) an understanding of the pharmacology and risks of controlled substances; 2) a basic awareness of the problems of abuse, addiction, and diversion; 3) awareness of state and federal regulations for the prescription of controlled substances; and 4) management of the treatment of pain. Practitioners who certify patients for the use of medical marijuana are encouraged to obtain at least two continuing medical education credit hours annually related to the medical use of cannabis. Dentists who hold a federal DEA registration to prescribe controlled substances shall complete three continuing dental education hours in pain management in courses that include: 1) an understanding of the pharmacology and risks of controlled substances; 2) a basic awareness of the problems of abuse, addiction, and diversion; 3) awareness of state and federal regulations for the prescription of controlled substances; and 4) management of the treatment of pain. Optometrists must obtain at least one hour of continuing education in pain management or related topic.

North Carolina – Boards shall require continuing education on the abuse of controlled substances as a condition of license renewal for health care providers who prescribe controlled substances, and shall require that at least one hour consists of a course designed specifically to address prescribing practices, which course shall include, but not be limited to, instruction on controlled substance prescribing practices and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management.

Ohio - Board shall approve one or more continuing education courses that assist doctors in diagnosing and treating chronic pain. Each physician owner of a pain management clinic and each physician providing care at a pain management clinic shall complete at least 20 hours of Category I continuing medical education in pain medicine every two years, to include one or more courses addressing the potential for addiction. Board encourages practitioners who encounter patients with intractable pain to complete continuing education related to the treatment of chronic pain, including coursework related to pharmacology, alternative methods of pain management and treatment, and addiction medicine.

Oregon - All medical board licensees must complete seven hours of pain management courses, including: 1) one-hour pain management course specific to Oregon; and 2) a minimum of six hours in the subjects of pain management and/or treatment of terminally ill and dying patients. Licensed health care professionals must complete a pain management education program in order to improve the care and treatment of individuals with painful conditions, which includes: 1) six hours of continuing education in pain management, end of life care, or both; and 2) the web-based training offered by the commission. For out of state health care professionals obtaining Oregon licensure or newly licensed professionals, the program must be completed within 24 months of their first license renewal. Dentists shall complete one hour of continuing education in pain management within 24 months of the first renewal of the dentist’s license. There is a one-time requirement for pharmacists to complete seven hours of continuing education in pain management, including: 1) a one-hour pain management course specific to Oregon; and 2) a minimum of six hours in pain management.

Pennsylvania - Optometrists who are certified to prescribe and administer pharmaceutical agents must complete a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education in the prescription and administration of pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes.

South Carolina - Physicians must complete two hours of continuing education related to approved procedures of prescribing and monitoring controlled substances.

Tennessee - Optometrists who are therapeutically certified must complete at least two hours of continuing education in prescribing practices. All optometrists holding a current Tennessee license must complete two hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing, which must include instruction in the Department's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol and may include topics such as medicine addiction, risk management tools, and other topics approved by the Board. All prescribers who hold a current federal DEA license and who prescribe controlled substances shall be required to complete a minimum of two hours of continuing education related to controlled substances prescribing, which must include instruction in the department’s treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol and may include other topics such as medicine addiction, risk management tools, and other topics. Each health care provider providing pain management services at a clinic shall complete ten (10) hours in continuing education courses during each health care provider's licensure renewal cycle which shall address one or more of the following topics related to pain management: 1) prescribing controlled substances; 2) drug screening; 3) pharmacological and non-pharmacological pain management; 4) completing a pain management focused history and physical examination and maintaining appropriate progress notes; 5) comorbidities with pain syndromes; and 6) substance abuse and misuse including diversion, prevention of same, and risk assessment for abuse.

Utah - Controlled substance prescribers shall complete at least 3.5 hours of continuing medical education hours in one or more controlled substance prescribing classes, except dentists who shall complete at least two such hours, that satisfy the following requirements: 1) must satisfy the division’s requirements for the continuing education required for the renewal of the controlled substance prescriber’s respective license type; 2) must be delivered by an accredited or approved continuing education provider; 3) must include postcourse knowledge assessment; and 4) must include content covering the following: a) the scope of the controlled substance abuse problem in Utah and the US; b) all elements of the FDA Blueprint for Prescriber Education; c) the national and Utah- specific resources available to prescribers to assist in appropriate controlled substance and opioid prescribing; and d) office policies, procedures, and implementation. By rule, controlled substance prescribers must obtain four hours of continuing education.

Vermont - All licensees shall obtain at least one hour of CME in the topics of hospice, palliative care, or pain management. All licensees who prescribe controlled substances shall obtain at least one hour of CME related to the topic of safe and effective prescribing.

West Virginia - Unless a physician has completed and timely provided to the Board a Board-developed certification form and waiver request attesting that he or she has not prescribed, administered, or dispensed a controlled substance during the entire previous reporting period, every physician as a prerequisite to license renewal shall complete a minimum of three hours of drug diversion training and best practice prescribing of controlled substances training.