

Vermont M.D. License CME Requirement Update



The last edition of our newsletter included an article "[Vermont M.D. License Renewal Now Requires CME](#)" on the new requirement for completing CME as a requirement for renewal of your license when it expires on November 30, 2014. The Board continues to receive questions about the new CME rules, so we will try to address some of those here.

I am a [Insert name of profession: radiologist, pathologist, etc.]. Do I have to take a safe prescribing course?

The answer is that it depends. It doesn't matter if you see patients, or not. It doesn't matter what your specialty is. The only fact that matters for determining if you must take a safe prescribing course is whether you have, or have applied for, a DEA registration number. If you have one or have a pending application, you must take a course on prescribing. If you do not have a DEA number, have not applied for one, and will not be applying for one before November 30, 2014, then you do not need to meet the requirement for a prescribing course to renew your license.

Do I have to take the Board of Medical Practice course on safe and effective prescribing of opioids?

No. The Board has partnered with Boston University Medical School to offer a [course on opioid prescribing](#) on three different occasions, and we hope to offer it again this year. The course satisfies the requirement, but you are not required to take that particular course. Any course on prescribing that qualifies for AMA PRA Category 1™ credit will meet the requirement. BU offers a free, online course that meets the requirement.

UPDATE: [The S.C.O.P.E of Pain conference \(5 AMA PRA Category 1™ credits\)](#) will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2014 at the Hilton hotel in Burlington, VT.

Is there a special course on hospice, palliative care, and pain management that I must take?

Every licensee who is required to complete CME for renewal must have at least one hour of CME on at least one of those topics, but there is no specific course that must be taken. This subject requirement is taken directly from the statute that established the CME requirement. Any course that has at least one hour on any of those

subjects, or on a combination of them, and that qualifies for AMA PRA Category 1™ credit will meet the requirement.

Will I have to submit documentation of my CME activities when I apply to renew my license?

No, you will only need to certify that you meet the applicable CME requirement. The rules do not make submission of documentation a requirement. However, each licensee should retain documentation for at least four years. The Rules allow for auditing compliance, in which case the licensee will have to provide CME documentation. At the time of renewal, the licensee certifies compliance and is subject to being audited, but it is not mandatory to submit documentation at that time.

If you have more questions about the CME requirements, please refer to the [CME article from the 2013 newsletter](#) or contact the Board.

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