

CME Audit FAQ

We get a lot of questions about whether a specific activity counts toward the 30-credit requirement (or 15-credit requirement for certain licensees in special circumstances). Most questions can be answered by reading the [CME section of the Board's Rules](#). If you are still unsure, you can determine if it counts by answering these questions:

1. Does the activity provide AMA PRA Category 1™ credit?

If not, it does not count toward the Board's CME requirements.

2. Do P or E credits count?

No.

3. Did the training occur during the appropriate time period of December 1, 2016 to November 30, 2018?

If it did not, it does not count.

NOTE: For anyone who had to do a make-up plan for the 2016 renewal, activities that were used to satisfy the 2016 renewal requirement cannot be used a second time to satisfy the 2018 renewal requirement, even if they occurred during the period from December 1, 2016 to November 30, 2018. Similarly, if you met the 2018 requirement by executing an approved make-up plan, then credits completed after November 30, 2018 may be counted. That is only for those with an approved make-up plan.

4. Does the activity count for the safe prescribing requirement?

The Board's Rule closely follows the requirement in Vermont law. It provides:

22.1.6 Required Subject: Prescribing Controlled Substances.

All physician licensees who are required to certify completion of CME and who prescribe controlled substances shall certify at the time of each renewal that at least two hours of qualifying CME activity on controlled substances prescribing. The following topics must be covered, as required by Vermont law: abuse and diversion, safe use, and appropriate storage and disposal of controlled substances; the appropriate use of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System; risk assessment for abuse or addiction; pharmacological and nonpharmacological alternatives to opioids for managing pain; medication tapering and cessation of the use of controlled substances; and relevant State and federal laws and regulations concerning the prescription of opioid controlled substances. Each licensee who is registered with the D.E.A. and who holds a D.E.A. number to prescribe controlled substances, or who has submitted a pending application for one, is presumed to prescribe controlled substances and must meet this requirement.

When reviewing activities to see if they count toward the safe prescribing requirement there is a small degree of discretion. Although the law and the Rule indicate that the list of subjects must be covered, a course that includes a substantial portion of the topics, and thus meets the intent of the law, may be accepted.

5. Does a course on medical marijuana count toward the safe prescribing requirement?

No, medical marijuana is not prescribed and thus a course about medical marijuana does not qualify for the required safe prescribing training. However, that is not to say that a course generally on safe prescribing cannot include information about the way patients' use of marijuana or medical marijuana may affect their health and interact with other controlled substances that might be prescribed by a physician or PA.

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