

Vermont M.D. License CME Requirement Update

Since the adoption of the CME requirement for renewal of your license, the Board continues to receive questions from physicians about the CME rules. In addition to the information provided our article "[Vermont M.D. License Renewal Now Requires CME](#)", here we address a few of the more frequently asked questions as related to your 2016 license renewal.

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, 2016, 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 \(S.C.O.P.E of Pain: Safe and Competent Opioid Prescribing Education\)](#) 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.

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 re-

quirement.

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 [FAQ CME article](#) or contact the Board.

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