

Rule Adopted August 10, 2017

Rule 360-15-.01. Requirements for Physicians

(1) Physicians licensed to practice medicine pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-34-26 shall complete Board approved continuing education of not less than 40 hours biennially

(4) Effective January 1, 2018, every physician not subject to Rule 360-15-.01(3) who maintains an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete at least one time three or more hours of AMA/AOA PRA Category 1 CME that is designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management. The certification of such completion must occur at the first renewal following January 1, 2018 or the first renewal following licensure. Completion of this requirement may count as three hours toward the CME requirement for license renewal.

FAQ's

1. If I took a controlled substance prescribing course after the last time I renewed, can I use this course to renew my license after 2018? **Any controlled substances prescribing guidelines coursework taken since your license "last expired" will count toward this requirement.**
2. When does this continuing education requirement begin? **January 1, 2018**
3. I am a family practice physician do I need to comply with this new requirement? **Yes, if you maintain an active DEA certificate and prescribe controlled substances.**
4. How many hours do I need to complete this requirement? **You need three hours.**
5. Do I have to get these hours every time I renew? **No, you are only required to get these hours once.**
6. Where can I get the hours from? Can they be from training classes, courses, or my professional association? **The hours must be AMA/AOA PRA Category 1 CME that is designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management.**
7. Should I send in my certificate after I take the course? **No, keep your certificate for your records until you are asked by the Board to submit evidence of compliance.**

8. My license expires December 2017; do I have to take the class before my license expires? **No, you will need to complete the class the next time you renew, which will be December 2019.**

9. Does the Board still require 40 hours of CME to renew my license in addition to these hours? **The Board still requires 40-hours of CME; these three hours will count toward the 40-hours.**

10. Are there any approved sponsors that offer the program? **It is up to the individual licensee to find these sponsors. You may want to check with your professional association.**

11. I do not have a DEA certificate and do not prescribe controlled substances. Does this mean I will not have to take the Opioid classes? **No, you do not. The requirement for this training is only for a licensee that “maintains an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances...”**

12. If I took a prescribe controlled substances course in another state, can I use it to renew my Georgia license? **Yes, as long as the course is AMA/AOA PRA Category 1 CME that is designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices.**

NEW:

13. I am a physician that has a DEA, but I do not prescribe controlled substances. Will I need to take the three hours course?

Yes, because you have a DEA and can prescribe controlled substances at will you have to take the course. The only way to avoid taking the three-hour course is to give up your DEA?

Updated 10/9/17

Update for review 2/12/2018 – for Board review March 1, 2018