

1   **21 NCAC 32R .0101       CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIRED**

2   (a) Continuing Medical Education (CME) is defined as education, training and activities to increase knowledge and  
3   skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of  
4   clinical medicine, and the provision of healthcare to the public. The purpose of CME is to maintain, develop, or  
5   improve the physician's knowledge, skills, professional performance and relationships which physicians use to  
6   provide services for their patients, their practice, the public, or the profession.

7   (b) Each person licensed to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina, except those holding a residency  
8   training license, shall complete at least 60 hours of Category 1 CME relevant to the physician's current or intended  
9   specialty or area of practice every three years.   Beginning on July 1, 2017, every physician who prescribes  
10   controlled substances, except those holding a residency training license, shall complete at least three hours of CME,  
11   from the required 60 hours of Category 1 CME, that is designed specifically to address controlled substance  
12   prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance  
13   prescribing practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance  
14   prescribing for chronic pain management.

15   (c) The three year period described in Paragraph (b) of this Rule begins on the physician's first birthday following  
16   initial licensure.

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18   *History Note:     Authority G.S. 90-14(a)(15);*

19                   *Eff. January 1, 2000;*

20                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001;*

21                   *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1,*  
22                   *2016.*

23                   *Amended Eff. September 1, 2016;*