

1 **21 NCAC 32S .0216 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

2 (a) A physician assistant shall complete at least 50 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years.
3 The CME must be recognized by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as
4 Category I CME. A physician assistant shall provide CME documentation for inspection by the board or its agent
5 upon request. The two year period shall run from the physician assistant's birthday, beginning in the year 1999, or
6 the first birthday following initial licensure, whichever occurs later.

7 (b) Beginning on July 1, 2017, a physician assistant who prescribes controlled substances must complete at least
8 two hours of CME, from the required 50 hours, designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing
9 practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME, shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing,
10 recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic
11 pain management.

12 (c) A physician assistant who possesses a current certification with the NCCPA shall be deemed in compliance
13 with the requirement of Paragraph (a) of this Rule. The physician assistant must attest on his or her annual renewal
14 that he or she is currently certified by the NCCPA. Physician assistants who attest that they possess a current
15 certificate with the NCCPA shall not be exempt from the controlled substance prescribing CME requirement of
16 Paragraph (b) of this Rule and must complete the required two hours of controlled substance CME unless such CME
17 is a component part of their certification activity.

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20 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); 90-9.3; 90-18(c)(13); 90-18.1;*

21 *Eff. September 1, 2009;*

22 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; November 1, 2010;*

23 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1,*
24 *2016.*

25 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2016;*