

The Board proposed changes to the physician and physician assistant CME rules at its January meeting. Proposed revisions to the physician CME rule are published below. Visit [www.ncmedboard.org](http://www.ncmedboard.org) and click on the prescribing CME slide at the center of the page to access the proposed changes to the PA rule.

## **SUBCHAPTER 32R – CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIREMENTS**

### **SECTION .0100 – CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIREMENTS**

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

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

(b) Each person licensed to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina ~~Carolina~~, except those holding a residency training license, shall complete at least 60 hours of Category 1 CME relevant to the physician's current or intended specialty or area of practice every three years. Beginning on January 1, 2017, every physician who prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training license, shall take at least three hours of CME, from the required 60 hours of 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 practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management.

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

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-14(a)(15); 2015 Session Law 12F .16(b); G.S. 90-5.1 22*

*Eff. January 1, 2000;*

*Amended Eff. \_\_\_\_\_ ; August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001.*