

# Required controlled substances continuing medical education (CS CME)

**What is it?** In July of 2017, requirements went into effect that obligate certain licensees to complete continuing medical education (CME) hours in controlled substances prescribing during each CME cycle.

**Who does this affect?** The requirements apply to physicians, including residents who hold a full license, and PAs who prescribe controlled substances of any kind.

**What are the CS CME hour requirements?** Physicians must earn three hours of CME in controlled substances prescribing during each three year CME cycle. PAs must earn two hours during each two year cycle.

**What topics should be covered in the CME?** Content on controlled substance prescribing practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management and opioid alternatives for pain are all approved topics.

**How do I find CS CME classes?** Many Category 1 CME courses can be counted. As a courtesy, NCMB maintains a continuously updated list of free and low-cost CME classes that cover the required topics. You can view them [here](#).

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## **Additional Resources**



[FAQs on Controlled Substances CME requirement](#)



[Prescribing CME Resource Page](#)



[Read the final, approved physician CME rule](#)



[Read the final, approved PA CME rule](#)