21 NCAC 32R .0101 is amended as published in 34:09 NCR 765 as follows:

**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 that a physician uses to provide services for their patients, the public, or the profession.

(b) Each person licensed to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina, except those physicians 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 July 1, 2017, every physician who prescribes controlled substances, except those physicians holding a residency training license, shall complete at least three hours of CME 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. CME that includes recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, or non-opioid treatment options shall qualify for the purposes of this Rule.

(c) The three-year period described in Paragraph (b) of this Rule begins on the physician's first birthday following the initial issuance of his or her license.

**History Note:** Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); 90-14(a)(15); S.L. 2015-241, 12F.16(b) and 12F.16(c);

Eff. January 1, 2000;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1, 2016;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2020; Amended Eff. September 1, 2016.