

1 21 NCAC 32R .0101 is amended as published in 34:09 NCR 765 as follows:

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3 **21 NCAC 32R .0101 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIRED**

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

9 (b) ~~Each person~~ A physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina, except those physicians
10 holding a residency training license, shall complete at least 60 hours of Category 1 CME relevant to the physician's
11 current or intended specialty or area of practice every ~~three 3~~ years. ~~Beginning on July 1, 2017, every~~ Every
12 physician who prescribes controlled substances, except those physicians holding a residency training license, shall
13 complete at least ~~three 3~~ hours of ~~CME, CME~~ from the required 60 hours of Category 1 ~~CME, that is CME~~ designed
14 specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall
15 include instruction on controlled substance prescribing practices, ~~recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of~~
16 ~~controlled substances, practices~~ and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management. CME that
17 includes recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, or non-opioid treatment options shall
18 qualify for the purposes of this Rule.

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

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22 *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*
23 *12F.16(c);*

24 *Eff. January 1, 2000;*

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

26 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1,*
27 *2016;*

28 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2020; Amended Eff. September 1, 2016.*