

21 NCAC 32S .0216 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

(a) A physician assistant shall complete at least 50 hours of ~~continuing medical education~~ Continuing Medical Education (CME) every ~~two~~ 2 years. The CME shall be recognized by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as Category I CME. ~~A~~ The physician assistant shall provide CME documentation for inspection by the ~~board~~ Board or its agent upon request. The ~~two-year~~ two-year period shall begin on the physician assistant's ~~first~~ birthday following ~~initial licensure~~ the issuance of his or her license.

(b) ~~Beginning on July 1, 2017, a~~ A physician assistant who prescribes controlled substances shall complete at least ~~two~~ 2 hours of CME, from the required 50 hours, 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,~~ practices 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 purposes of this Rule.

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

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); 90-18.1; S.L. 2015-241, 12F.16(b) and 12F.16(c);*

*Eff. September 1, 2009;*

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

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

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