

1 **21 NCAC 32R .0101 is proposed to be amended 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 which physicians use to
8 provide services for their patients, their practice, the public, or the profession.

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

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

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20 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-14(a)(15);*

21 *Eff. January 1, 2000;*

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

23 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1,*
24 *2016.*

25 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2016;*