

1 **21 NCAC 32S .0216 is proposed to be amended as follows:**

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3 **21 NCAC 32S .0216 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

4 (a) A physician assistant shall complete at least ~~100 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years,~~
5 ~~at least~~ 50 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years. ~~which~~ The CME must be recognized by
6 the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as Category I CME. A physician
7 assistant shall provide CME documentation for inspection by the board or its agent upon request. The two year
8 period shall run from the physician assistant's birthday, beginning in the year 1999, or the first birthday following
9 initial licensure, whichever occurs later.

10 (b) Beginning on January 1, 2017, a physician assistant who prescribes controlled substances must complete at least
11 two hours of CME, from the required 50 hours, designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing
12 practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME, shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing,
13 recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for chronic
14 pain management.

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

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23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); 90-9.3; 90-18(c)(13); 90-18.1;*

24 *Eff. September 1, 2009;*

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

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

28 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2016;*