

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 a physician uses to provide  
8 services for his or her patients and practice, the public, or profession.

9 (b) A physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina, except those physicians 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 3 years. Every physician who prescribes controlled substances, except  
12 those physicians holding a residency training license, shall complete at least 3 hours of CME from the required 60  
13 hours of Category 1 CME designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled  
14 substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing practices and controlled  
15 substance prescribing for chronic pain management. CME that includes recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of  
16 controlled substances, or non-opioid treatment options shall qualify for the purposes of this Rule. Physicians who  
17 complete the federally required training under the Medication Access and Training Expansion Act (MATE) shall be  
18 deemed in compliance with the controlled substance prescribing requirements of this Rule for the three-year CME  
19 period in which the MATE training was completed.

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

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23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); 90-14(a)(15); S.L. 2015-241, s. 12F.16(b) and*  
24 *12F.16(c);*  
25 *Eff. January 1, 2000;*  
26 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001;*  
27 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1,*  
28 *2016;*  
29 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2024; April 1, 2020; September 1, 2016.*