

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



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10/24/2022

Dear Pharmacist:

This announcement contains important information regarding a continuing education requirement for all pharmacists in 2023.

Pursuant to 54.1-3314.1(J) of the Code of Virginia and to address the significant increase in overdose deaths and patient inability to access buprenorphine and other medications from pharmacies in Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy voted unanimously at its March full board meeting that all pharmacists must obtain at least two (2) hours of continuing education (CE) in 2023 on the following subject: medications for opioid use disorder (OUD), including methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone, naloxone, or any other drug indicated for OUD. The two (2) hour minimum requirement is part of the fifteen (15) hours of required CE that must be obtained in 2023 and is not in addition to the required fifteen (15) hours. This is a one-time requirement; further action by the Board would be required to mandate CE on a specific topic in future years. This requirement applies only to pharmacists, not pharmacy technicians.

Please note that this requirement does not identify specific objectives that must be included in your selected CE program, nor has a list of approved CE programs been identified from which you must choose. The requirement is intended to be general to allow each pharmacist the flexibility of choosing an appropriate CE program that focuses on the medications for opioid use disorder and complies with the requirements of 18VAC110-21-120 (B). The CE must be obtained between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Inquiries may be directed to [pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov)