

Dear Colleague:

In response to the opioid crisis, the 2016 General Assembly passed law that requires identified licensees to complete 2 hours of continuing education each biennium on topics related to pain management, the responsible prescribing of “covered substances” and the diagnosis and management of addiction. "Covered substance" now means all controlled substances included in Schedules II, III, and IV; controlled substances included in Schedule V for which a prescription is required; naloxone; and all drugs of concern that are required to be reported to the Prescription Monitoring Program,. "Covered substance" also includes cannabis oil dispensed by a pharmaceutical processor in Virginia. By January 1 of the odd-numbered years, the Board must notify its licensees that are required to complete the 2 hours of CE prior to their next renewal. For the biennium 2021-2022, the Board determined that all licensees with prescribing authority should obtain this CE.

For 2021-2022, as in previous biennia, you can find your own 2 hours of Type 1 (CAT I) CE to satisfy the requirement, or you may use selections from the following list of resources as Type 1. Only claim the amount of time you spend on any of these resources.

Reading the Board of Medicine Regulations Governing Prescribing of Opioids and Buprenorphine

- https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/medicine/leg/Medicine_Opioid_Regs_08082018.doc

Reading the Nurse Practitioner Regulations Governing Prescribing of Opioids and Buprenorphine - 18VAC90-40 Sections 150-290

- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title18/agency90/chapter40/>

Reading the Board of Medicine’s Frequently Asked Questions on Opioids and Buprenorphine

- <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/medicine/docs/FAQPrescribingBuprenorphine.pdf>

Viewing the Prescription Monitoring Program Video Modules on NarxCare

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLAucn-PlwumMkKRg1hIHeaD908chEpgNZ&v=uouFsJ4QWp0&feature=emb_logo

Boston University 2-hour “SCOPE of Pain” course

- www.scopeofpain.org

Pain Management and Opioids from NEJM Knowledge+

- <https://knowledgeplusoffers.nejm.org/BU-Scope-of-Pain/>

CDC Interactive Training Series for Healthcare Providers

- <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/training/online-training.html>

Stanford University “BRAVO! A Collaborative Approach to Opioid Tapering”

- <https://online.stanford.edu/courses/som-ycme0022-how-taper-patients-chronic-opioid-therapy>

SAMHSA SBIRT – Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment

- <https://www.samhsa.gov/sbirt>

Other articles of note:

“Prescription of Opioids for Acute Pain in Opioid Naïve Patients” – UpToDate – fee involved

“Association between Medical Cannabis Laws and Opioid Overdose Mortality Has Reversed Over Time” – Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

“The Medicinal Cannabis Treatment Agreement: Providing Information to Chronic Pain Patients via a Written Document” – National Library of Medicine/National Institutes of Health

“Benzodiazepines: A Perspective” at <https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.20040376>

“Prevalence and Correlates of Prescription Stimulant Use, Misuse, Use Disorders, and Motivations for Misuse Among Adults in the United States”

<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/appi.ajp.2018.17091048>