

1 21 NCAC 32R .0101 is amended with changes as published in 34:09 NCAC 765 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 ~~that a physicians use~~  
8 physician uses to provide services for ~~their~~ his or her ~~patients their~~ and practice, the public, or ~~the~~ profession.

9 (b) ~~Each person~~ A physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of North Carolina, except those physicians  
10 holding a residency training license, shall complete at least 60 hours of Category 1 CME relevant to the physician's  
11 current or intended specialty or area of practice every ~~three~~ 3 years. ~~Beginning on July 1, 2017, every~~ Every  
12 physician who prescribes controlled substances, except those physicians holding a residency training license, shall  
13 complete at least ~~three~~ 3 hours of ~~CME~~, CME from the required 60 hours of Category 1 ~~CME~~, that is CME designed  
14 specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall  
15 include instruction on controlled substance prescribing ~~practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of~~  
16 ~~controlled substances, practices~~ and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management. CME that  
17 includes recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, or non-opioid treatment options shall  
18 qualify for the purposes of this Rule.

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

21 *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*  
22 *12F.16(c);*  
23 *Eff. January 1, 2000;*  
24 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; January 1, 2001;*  
25 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1,*  
26 *2016;*  
27 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2020; Amended Eff. September 1, 2016.*  
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1 21 NCAC 32S .0216 is amended with changes as published in 34:09 NCAC 765-766 as follows:

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

4 (a) A physician assistant shall complete at least 50 hours of ~~continuing medical education~~ Continuing Medical  
5 Education (CME) every two years. The CME shall be recognized by the National Commission on Certification of  
6 Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as Category I CME. ~~A~~ The physician assistant shall provide CME documentation for  
7 inspection by the ~~board~~ Board or its agent upon request. The ~~two-year~~ two-year period shall begin on the physician  
8 assistant's ~~first~~ birthday following ~~initial licensure~~. the issuance of his or her license.

9 (b) ~~Beginning on July 1, 2017,~~ A physician assistant who prescribes controlled substances shall complete at least  
10 two hours of CME, from the required 50 hours, designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing  
11 practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing  
12 ~~practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances,~~ practices and controlled substance  
13 prescribing for chronic pain management. CME that includes recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled  
14 substances, or non-opioid treatment options shall qualify for purposes of this Rule.

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

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23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); 90-18.1; S.L. 2015-241, 12F.16(b) a 12F.16(c);*  
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. April 1, 2020; September 1, 2016.*  
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