



Department of Health

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Mandatory Prescriber Education Guidance

Prescribers licensed under Title Eight of the Education Law in New York to treat humans and who have a DEA registration number to prescribe controlled substances, as well as medical residents who prescribe controlled substances under a facility DEA registration number, must complete at least three (3) hours of course work or training in pain management, palliative care, and addiction. The course work or training must be completed by July 1, 2017, and once every three years thereafter, pursuant to Public Health Law (PHL) §3309-a(3).

The course work or training may be live or online.

The course work or training must include the following eight (8) topics:

- New York State and federal requirements for prescribing controlled substances;
- Pain management;
- Appropriate prescribing;
- Managing acute pain;
- Palliative medicine;
- Prevention, screening and signs of addiction;
- Responses to abuse and addiction; and
- End of life care.

Courses accredited for the continuing education of any licensees under Title Eight of the Education Law to treat humans, and which include any or all of the required topics above, are approved by the New York State Department of Health (Department) for the number of hours for which they are accredited.

Accrediting organizations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME);
- The American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP);
- The Academy of General Dentistry's Program Approval for Continuing Education (AGD PACE);
- The New York State Dental Association (NYSDA);
- American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA);
- Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME);
- The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM);

- American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP);
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE);
- American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA);
- New York State Podiatric Medical Association (NYSPMA);
- The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP);
- American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM);
- Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY); and
- New York Chapter American College of Physicians (NYACP).

Prescribers must complete course work or training in all eight topics. The topics may be covered by a single, comprehensive presentation or by multiple individual presentations for a total of at least three hours. Depending on the presentations, it may take longer than three hours to complete all eight required topic areas.

Prescribers must attest to their own completion of the course work or training. For medical residents who prescribe under a facility's DEA registration number, however, the facility must make such attestation.

For the initial attestation deadline of July 1, 2017, applicable course work or training completed from July 1, 2015, to July 1, 2017, is allowed. For each and every subsequent attestation period, course work or training must be completed during the applicable attestation period.

Prescribers licensed on or after July 1, 2017, who have a DEA registration, as well as medical residents prescribing controlled substances under a facility DEA registration, shall complete the course work or training within one year of registration, and once within each three-year period thereafter.

Documentation of the completion of the course work or training must be maintained by the prescriber for a minimum of six (6) years from the date of the applicable attestation deadline for audit purposes. Documentation must include the course work or training provider name, course work or training name, location it occurred, date it occurred, and number of hours completed for each.

In certain limited circumstances, the Department may grant an exemption to the required course work or training to an individual prescriber who clearly demonstrates to the Department that there is no need to complete such training.

For more information on the mandatory prescriber education requirement of PHL § 3309-a(3), the attestation form, and Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the Department's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement website at: <http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/>, or call 1-866-811-7957.