

## Continuing Medical Education for Prescribing and Monitoring Controlled Substances

Approved by the Board at its January 13, 2015 meeting and revised at its May 6, 2015 meeting

Service Area: Licensure, Physicians

Subject: Continuing Medical Education for Prescribing and Monitoring Controlled Substances

In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 40-47-10(I)(1) of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners has adopted the following statement as guidance for physicians in the practice of medicine under the South Carolina Medical Practice Act and the Principles of Medical Ethics as adopted by the Board.

Effective June 6, 2014, S.C. Code Ann. § 40-47-40(2)(a) was amended to read as follows:

(2) For renewal of an active permanent license biennially, documented evidence of at least one of following options during the renewal period is required:

(a) forty hours of Category I continuing medical education sponsored by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association, or another organization approved by the board as having acceptable standards for courses it sponsors, at least thirty hours of which must be related directly to the licensee's practice area, and at least two (2) hours of which may be related to approved procedures of prescribing and monitoring controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV of the schedules provided for in Sections [44-53-210](#), [44-53-230](#), [44-53-250](#), and [44-53-270](#), and must be received from a statewide organization recognized by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to recognize and accredit organizations in South Carolina offering continuing medical education or from a statewide organization approved to provide continuing medical education by its national organization which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. Each renewal form submitted pursuant to Section [40-47-41](#) must include a certificate of participation with the prescribing and monitoring education requirement issued by the organization from which the education was received;"

The South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners provides guidance for acceptable prescribing courses for meeting the requirement. The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) provides standardization, oversight, and certification of CME hours by numerous professional organizations throughout the United States. Likewise, the

American Osteopathic Association provides national standardization, oversight, and certification of AOA approved CME hours through the Council on Continuing Medical Education (CCME). For the purposes of the 2 hour requirement listed above, an ACCME or AOA CCME-approved course in prescribing and monitoring controlled substances is required. Offerings that fulfill this requirement include but are not limited to CME hours in controlled substance prescribing sponsored by the Federation of State Medical Boards, (e.g. “*Responsible Opioid Prescribing, A Clinician’s Guide*” by Scott M. Fishman, MD) the South Carolina Medical Association, other professional organizations with ACCME or AOA CCME certified CME (e.g. AAFP, ACP), and any FDA-REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) compliant CME courses.