

Dear Medical Staff Member,

The rules about CME required for licensure have been changing in the past 2 years. The changes have been confusing in some cases, so we are providing this informational document as an aid to your maintaining compliance. Please note that when you sign your application for license renewal, you are also attesting to the fact that you have met the requirements below. Please be sure that you have indeed done so.

1. CME are required by the state for re-licensure. SABA training courses are internal to UConn Health and have nothing to do with this external re-licensure requirement.

2. Some state rules about CME have not changed:

- It is still required that 50 CME be earned in the two year period preceding your license effective date. Included in the requirements are special topics as mandated by the state:

As always, you must have, at a minimum

- 1 hour in domestic violence
- 1 hour in sexual assault
- 1 hour in infectious disease (including HIV,AIDS)
- 1 hour in risk management
- 1 hour behavioral health

3. Changes:

- Addition of 1 hour minimum for cultural competence
- Modification of Risk category to include pain management and opioid dependency (required)
- Modification of behavioral health category to include **2** hours of veterans issues including PTSD (required)
- The requirement to complete these special sessions every two years has now been relaxed to every six years. (Note that the 50 credits total every 2 years remains the same)

We have appended the statute (Appendix A). For ease in reading, we have reformatted it, without changing any words, and have highlighted important text. Please read it over.

FAQ

Q. Will the Medical Staff Office (MSO) track my CME?

A. No. The MSO will not check for your special courses. At the time of your medical staff membership renewal you will be asked to submit all of your certificates, or, alternatively, a list of all your CME activity and credit, so that the MSO can verify that you have 50 hours since last reappointment (a requirement for membership as prescribed in the Bylaws). If you wish to send your certificates to the MSO as you accumulate them, you may do so and MSO will keep a file.

Our recommendation is that you keep a backup copy of each certificate and that you create a spreadsheet that shows a running total for the relevant time period and contains the name and source of the activity. A column to indicate the type of activity will help stay organized (*e.g.*, 'Risk', 'Infectious Disease', 'General Medicine' *etc.*)

Q. What about the activity assigned through SABA?

A. Unrelated. SABA is an internal training application, keeping you compliant with both internal policies and external mandates. It is not related to CME.

Q. Obtaining CME related to my specialty is easy, but where can I find CME that qualify for these extra topics required by the state?

A.

- The DPH synopsis on prescribing control substances (Appendix B) has some suggestions/links for that specific topic. Be sure you read the law regarding CPMRS while you look at that page

- Colleagues have found this site useful for pain:

www.capc.org/accounts/register

UConn faculty use work email and pick UConn on the drop down option to be registered.

- Medscape can help out with some of the requirements. You may need to join but it is free. Be sure that your selection has not expired (current marked with a red CME)

<http://www.medscape.org>

- For HIV, <http://www.medscape.org/hiv/cme> is particularly useful

- A very useful site for several of these special topics is

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/>

Go to Education, then type in the desired topic in the search box

- Take a look at various university websites. For example, University of Pittsburgh has some good choices.

Q. Can I get my special topics CME here at UConn Health?

A.

- **YES!** The Office of Continuing Medical Education has provided a website specifically for you to acquire CME in the

special areas carved out for licensure renewal. This site makes it easy! Follow the link below.

<http://health.uconn.edu/continuing-medical-education/programs/journal-based-cme/>

- Keep an eye on the local grand rounds conferences. CME credits are available and they may, from time to time, cover a required subject.

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APPENDIX A

FROM CT Gen Statutes

CHAPTER 370 MEDICINE AND SURGERY Section 20-10b

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of this section, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing medical education within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing medical education shall

- (1) be in an area of the physician's practice;
- (2) reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public; and
- (3) during the first renewal period in which continuing medical education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter, include at least one contact hour of training or education in each of the following topics:
 - (A) infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus,
 - (B) risk management, including, but not limited to, for registration periods beginning on or after October 1, 2015, prescribing controlled substances and pain management,
 - (C) sexual assault,
 - (D) domestic violence,
 - (E) cultural competency,
and
 - (F) behavioral health, provided further that on and after January 1, 2016, such behavioral health continuing medical education may include, but not be limited to, at least two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter, on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, including
 - (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran,
 - (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and
 - (iii) suicide prevention training.

For purposes of this section, qualifying continuing medical education activities include, but are not limited to, courses offered or approved by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Medical Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut

State Medical Society, county medical societies or equivalent organizations in another jurisdiction, educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other health care institution or courses offered by a regionally accredited academic institution or a state or local health department. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may grant a waiver for not more than ten contact hours of continuing medical education for a physician who: (i) Engages in activities related to the physician's service as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, established pursuant to section 20-8a; (ii) engages in activities related to the physician's service as a member of a medical hearing panel, pursuant to section 20-8a; or (iii) assists the department with its duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-14.6

10/2015

(c) Each licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to section 19a-88 shall sign a statement attesting that the licensee has satisfied the continuing education requirements of subsection (b) of this section on a form prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall retain records of attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate compliance with the continuing education requirements of subsection (b) of this section for a minimum of six years following the year in which the continuing education activities were completed and shall submit such records or certificates to the department for inspection not later than forty-five days after a request by the department for such records or certificates.

(d) A licensee applying for the first time for license renewal pursuant to section 19a-88 of the-

APPENDIX B

DPH Compliance-Action Required

This is to inform and remind all prescribing providers to obtain the CT DPH required CME courses specifically related to prescribing controlled substances and pain management **at the time of license renewal**. Also, if you prescribe a controlled substance for more than a 72-hour period, you must access the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS) at www.ctpmp.com to assess if the patient had recently been prescribed any controlled substances elsewhere. From a risk management standpoint, accessing the CPMRS database is a good habit to periodically exercise. You can check the accuracy of the data which includes the number of controlled substances prescriptions you have written for. These new CT DPH requirements will go into effect **October 1, 2015**. Please view the bill attached.

There are several CME course offerings that are free of charge that meet the CME course requirements. If you'd like to utilize these courses, a list of a few links to access these courses is attached for your convenience. Educational offerings sponsored by a hospital, a regionally accredited academic institution or a state or local health department are also acceptable as long as it satisfies the requirements.

Prescription Monitoring Program

The prescription monitoring program collects prescription data for Schedule II through Schedule V drugs into a central database, the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS), which can then be used by providers and pharmacists in the active treatment of their patients.

The purpose of the CPMRS is to present a complete picture of a patient's controlled substance use, including prescriptions by other providers, so that the provider can properly manage the patient's treatment, including the referral of a patient to services offering treatment for drug abuse or addiction when appropriate.

Under Connecticut [law](#), information about all transactions for controlled substances (Schedule II-V) dispensed in Connecticut must be reported to the CPMRS. Pharmacies, both in and out of state, and dispensing practitioners must submit data at least once per week.

New: Public Act 15-198 (Effective 10/01/2015) and June Special Session Public Act 15-5, Sec. 354 (Effective 10/01/2015) these new requirements will effect both prescribers and pharmacies.

Prior to prescribing greater than a seventy-two-hour supply of any controlled substance (Schedule II - V) to any patient, the prescribing practitioner or such practitioner's authorized agent who is also a licensed health care professional shall review the patient's records in the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS) at www.ctpmp.com.

Whenever a prescribing practitioner prescribes controlled substances for the continuous or prolonged treatment of any patient, such prescriber, or such prescriber's authorized agent who is also a licensed health care professional, shall review, not less than once every ninety days, the patient's records in the CPMRS.

On and after July 1, 2016, each pharmacy, nonresident pharmacy, outpatient pharmacy in a hospital or institution, and dispenser shall report all controlled substance prescriptions dispensed immediately upon, but in no event more than twenty-four hours after, dispensing such prescriptions into the CPMRS Data Collection website at www.ctxreport.com.

http://www.ct.gov/dcp/cwp/view.asp?a=1620&q=411378&dcpNav_GID=1881

Continuing Medical Education

Below are links to CME course offerings that are free of charge. The manner in which the information is presented varies as well as the length of time of the course.

A variety of courses to choose from

<http://www.massmed.org/Continuing-Education-and-Events/Online-CME/Online-CME-Courses/#.VdYUrK18PIX>

Pain Management

<http://www.fsmb.org/policy-and-education/education-meetings/pain-policies>

Prescribing Controlled Substances

<http://www.fsmb.org/policy/education-meetings/er-la-opioids>

Below are links to CE Hours course offerings for CNMS and APRNs that are free of charge. The manner in which the information is presented varies as well as the length of time of the course.

Prescribing Controlled Substances

http://cesearchengine.com/ce_details.php?ce_id=19004

Pain Management and Prescribing Controlled Substances

http://cesearchengine.com/ce_details.php?ce_id=19092

Managing Pain Patients who Abuse Rx Drugs

http://cesearchengine.com/ce_details.php?ce_id=18894

Chronic Pain Management

http://cesearchengine.com/ce_details.php?ce_id=18798