



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation
Division of Health Related Boards
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

To: Tennessee Medical Doctors

From: Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners' Administrative Office

Re: Reminder Regarding Changes to Continuing Education Requirements

If you are a licensed medical doctor in the state of Tennessee with a DEA registration, as a condition of your 2015 and all subsequent renewals, you will be required to complete two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing which must include instruction in the Department's treatment guidelines.

If you are a licensed medical doctor in the state of Tennessee who does not have a DEA registration, you must complete the aforementioned education as a condition of your 2016 and all subsequent renewals.

Your CME should be earned in the two (2) calendar years preceding the year of your renewal.

Pursuant to Public Chapter 430, which became effective July 1, 2014, all prescribers who hold a current federal drug enforcement administration (DEA) license and who prescribe controlled substances are required to complete a minimum of two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing biennially to count toward the licensees' mandatory continuing education. The education must include instruction in the Department of Health's "Clinical Guidelines for Outpatient Management of Chronic Non-Malignant Pain" (hereinafter "the Department's treatment guidelines").¹ You may access the Department's treatment guidelines electronically by visiting: <http://health.state.tn.us/boards/PDFs/ChronicPainGuidelines%208%207%2014.pdf>.

Existing Board of Medical Examiners' rule requires that at least one (1) of the forty (40) required continuing education hours be in a course designed specifically to address prescribing practices.² However, **effective December 2, 2014, all medical doctors holding a current Tennessee license must complete a minimum of two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing, which must include instruction in the Department's treatment guidelines.**

Only the following licensees are exempt from these new requirements: 1) Veterinarians; 2) Providers practicing at a registered pain management clinic; 3) Medical doctors who are board certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS) in one or more of the following specialties or subspecialties: pain management, anesthesiology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology or rheumatology.³

¹ TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-1-402(a).

² TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 0880-02-.19(1).

³ TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-1-402(c).