

# Opioid Continuing Education Requirement for Prescribers

Effective January 1, 2020, all health care licensees who have authority to prescribe controlled substances must obtain two (2) hours of continuing education credits between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022. The continuing education credits must include content on:

1. best practices in prescribing opioids and controlled substances; and
2. non-pharmacological and implantable device alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain.

You are exempt from completing this requirement if you:

1. do not hold DEA registration, or
2. participate in the Department of Human Services Opioid Prescribing Improvement Program (OPIP). You are considered a participant if you have prescribed opioids for outpatient pain management to a Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) member in the current or the last calendar year AND received an opioid prescriber report from DHS in the last calendar year. An MHCP member is someone with Minnesota Medicaid or MinnesotaCare insurance.

The online system for verification of completion of the opioid continuing education is live on the Minnesota Board of Nursing website and is the preferred method for submitting verification of completion of the requirement. Log into your account, choose the tab labeled Opioid continuing education, click on Submit to Proceed and move through the prompts, answer the 2 eligibility questions- please read them carefully! If you are required to complete the continuing education, upload the verification of completion certificate with the objectives that verify the three components were included in the education. The continuing education must include all the below:

1. best practices in prescribing opioids and controlled substances; and
2. non-pharmacological alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain, and
3. implantable device alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain.

If the continuing education does not include all three elements, it will not meet the requirement. You may verify completion of the activity by logging back into your account and note that the opioid continuing education tab has been removed.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Where can I find a list of courses that satisfy the mandatory education requirement?
- A. The Board of Nursing does not approve specific continuing education. It is the nurse's responsibility to determine whether the course meets the established criteria. The course meets the requirements if it is at least 2 hours in length and includes:
1. best practices in prescribing opioids and controlled substances; and
  2. non-pharmacological, and
  3. implantable device alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain.

Courses that meet all criteria are the:

1. Minnesota Medical Association online continuing education titled [Best Practices for Prescribing Opioids and Other Controlled Substances](#)
2. Mayo Clinic Talks Podcast: [Opioid Edition](#)
3. NetCE #95151 Responsible and Effective Opioid Prescribing  
<https://www.netce.com/courseoverview.php?courseid=2169>
4. 2018 and 2020 Florida Medical Licensure Program; developed by InforMed for 2.00 hours on controlled substances/opioids: <https://fl.cme.edu/>.
5. 2019 Wisconsin Medical Licensure Program; developed by InforMed for 2.00 hours on responsible prescribing: <https://wi.cme.edu/>.
6. 2020 Nebraska Medical Licensure Program; developed by InforMed for 3.00 hours on prescribing opioids: <https://ne.cme.edu/>.
7. Best Practices in Prescribing Opioids and Controlled Substances in Pediatrics, Part 1 & 2, March 2020, Children’s Hospital and Clinics, MN.
8. Pain Management and Responsible Opioid Prescribing – Gundersen Health System; Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation
9. Ongoing Addressing the Opioid Epidemic 2020: Specialty Areas – Essential Health
10. Prescribing Opioids and Managing Pain: Guidelines and Best Practices – Health Partners Clinical Education
11. Opioid Prescribing Education, M Health Fairview, HealthEast Medical Education.
12. CentraCare Opioid & Controlled Substances Prescribing Training
13. M Health Fairview Comprehensive 2 Hour Opioid Training
14. Opioid Continuing Education for APRN Prescribers; 2 hours; Offered live monthly:  
<https://mnaprnc.enpnetwork.com/>
15. VA TMS #31108., Pain Management and Opioid Safety (available only to VA employees).
16. NPMEDED Safe Prescribing of Opioids: <https://npmeded.com/>.
17. University of Minnesota Best Practices in Opioid Prescribing and Pain Management; 2 contact hours.

Q. How do I know if I need to complete the mandatory education?

A. Visit your Board of Nursing on-line services account. Click the link to the **Opioid CE** activity and respond to the questions to determine whether you are required to complete the mandatory education. If you are required to complete the education, submit verification of course completion and course content any time between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022. The **Opioid CE** activity link will appear in your Board of Nursing on-line services until the activity is completed.

Q. Do I have to complete the mandatory coursework before my next renewal?

A. No, coursework may be submitted any time between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022. The **Opioid CE** activity link will appear in your Board of Nursing on-line services until the activity is completed.

Q. If I don’t have a DEA license, do I need to complete the mandatory education?

A. No, if you are not **authorized** to prescribe controlled substances, you do not need to complete the coursework. Visit your Board of Nursing on-line services account. Click the link to the **Opioid CE** activity and respond to the attestation questions that will confirm whether you must complete the mandatory CE. Once you have completed the **Opioid CE** activity in your online services account, you will not need to do anything further.

- Q. I have a DEA license, but I don't prescribe opioids. Do I have to complete the mandatory education?
- A. Yes. The law requires licensees who are **authorized** to prescribe controlled substances to complete the coursework, unless they are exempt as a participant in the Department of Human Services Opioid Prescribing Improvement Program, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §214.12, subd. 6(b).
- Q. I completed mandatory opioid continuing education in another state. Does that satisfy the requirement for Minnesota?
- A. Yes, if it includes the criteria established in law: licensees with the authority to prescribe controlled substances must obtain at least two hours of continuing education credit on **best practices in prescribing opioids and controlled substances, including nonpharmacological and implantable device alternatives for treatment of pain and ongoing pain management**. Coursework that does not meet the statutory content requirements of the Minnesota law will not be accepted.
- Q. I live and/or practice outside of Minnesota. Do I need to satisfy this mandatory education requirement?
- A. Yes, the law requires individuals **who hold a Minnesota license** and who are **authorized** to prescribe controlled substances to complete the coursework, unless they are exempt as a participant in the Minnesota Department of Human Services Opioid Prescribing Improvement Program, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §214.12, subd. 6(b).

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