Board of Medical Practice Opioid CE Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Where can I find a list of courses that satisfy the mandatory education requirement?
A. The Board of Medical Practice neither offers nor approves continuing education. The Board will compile and post a list of acceptable courses on its website, beginning in February 2020.

Q. How do I know if I need to complete the mandatory education?
A. Visit your Board of Medical Practice on-line services account and respond to the attestations in the Opioid CE activity 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 Medical Practice on-line services until you have responded to the questions and submitted any required coursework.

Q. I’ve determined I’m exempt. Now what?
A. Visit your Board of Medical Practice on-line services account and complete the Opioid CE online activity to confirm your exemption and close the activity.

Q. Am I exempt if I participate in the Minnesota Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)?
A. No. PMP participation is unrelated to this mandatory education requirement.

Q. Do I have to complete the mandatory coursework before my next renewal?
A. 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 Medical Practice 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. If you are not authorized to prescribe controlled substances, you do not need to complete the coursework. Visit your Board of Medical Practice 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. 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 Minnesota CE?
A. 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. 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).

Q. Does maintenance of specialty board certification (MOC) satisfy the requirement?
A. MOC may satisfy the requirement if it includes 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. MOC must include the required content to be accepted.

Q. How will I know if my coursework is acceptable?
A. Allow 12 weeks for coursework to be reviewed, then visit your Board of Medical Practice on-line services account to confirm that the Opioid CE online activity is complete.