



IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION THAT THERE WAS AN ISSUE WITH THE LINKS IN OUR PREVIOUS E-MAIL. ALL LINKS HAVE BEEN UPDATED. WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED.

September 29, 2020

**REMINDER REGARDING COURSE WORK OR TRAINING
IN PAIN MANAGEMENT, PALLIATIVE CARE AND ADDICTION: 3-YEAR ATTESTATION
OTHERWISE DUE BETWEEN JUNE 30-SEPTEMBER 30 EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 1**

As NYSPA members will recall, the New York Public Health Law was amended in 2016 to establish new mandatory continuing education requirements in the areas of pain management, palliative care and addiction. These changes reflect efforts to address the problem of opioid abuse.

PHL Section 3309-a(3) requires all physicians (including all non-physician prescribers) who have a DEA registration number to complete at least three hours of course work or training in pain management, palliative care and addiction. This requirement also applies to medical residents who prescribe controlled substances under a facility DEA registration number.

The initial course work or training had to be completed no later than July 1, 2017 and once every three years thereafter. **Hence, 2020 is the start of a new 3-year cycle.** The required course work or training must cover the following eight topics:

- (1) NYS and federal requirements for prescribing controlled substances;
- (2) Pain management;
- (3) Appropriate prescribing;
- (4) Managing acute pain;
- (5) Palliative medicine;
- (6) Prevention, screening and signs of addiction;
- (7) Responses to abuse and addiction; and
- (8) End of life care.

The course work or training may be completed in a live or online format. The course work or training may be covered by a single presentation or by multiple individual presentations, as long as each of the above topics is covered.

Providers will be required to attest to completion of the required course work or training. The attestation process is completed through the NYS Health Commerce System (HCS) with instructions available at:

https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/mandatory_prescriber_education/neat.htm.

Currently available courses:

- **The New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians** is offering a three-hour online course (updated in March 2020) on the required eight topics in conjunction with the Boston University School of Medicine. The cost is \$20.00. For more information please visit the NYACP website at <http://www.nyacp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3831>.
- **The Medical Society of the State of New York** is also offering three 1-hour online courses covering the required eight topics. The courses are free to MSSNY members and will be made available to non-members for a fee of \$50 per module. For more information about the online courses, please visit the MSSNY website at: <https://cme.mssny.org/>.
- **University of Buffalo:** Prescribers can access three hours of free course work covering the eight required topic areas, sponsored by NYSDOH, from the University of Buffalo. The course is offered in two parts and can be accessed at: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).
- **For a list of other approved continuing education providers**, please view a copy of the DOH Mandatory Prescriber Education Guidance, the link to which is provided below.

Reminder: The statute provides an exemption from the course work or training requirement for DEA registered providers: (i) who clearly demonstrate to the Department that there would be no need for the provider to complete such course work or training or (ii) who have completed course work or training equivalent to courses approved by the Department. Prescribers can request an exemption by utilizing the Health Commerce System. Providers who do not have a DEA number will be automatically exempt and will not need to apply for a waiver.

For more information please review the **DOH Mandatory Prescriber Education Guidance** document by clicking [here](#). Additional FAQ's about the process can be accessed [here](#).

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