



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 Physician Assistants

From: Tennessee Committee of Physician Assistants' Administrative Office

Re: Reminder Regarding Changes to Your Continuing Education Requirements

If you are a licensed physician assistant in the state of Tennessee with a DEA registration, as a condition of your 2015 and all subsequent license 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 physician assistant who does not have a DEA registration, at least one (1) of your Category I hours must address prescribing practices.

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 Committee on Physician Assistant rule—which still applies to licensed physician assistants who do not hold a DEA registration—requires that at least one (1) Category I hour of the continuing education hours addresses prescribing practices.² The division of hours between Category I and Category II continuing medical education must be consistent with the requirements of the N.C.C.P.A as described on the most current N.C.C.P.A. "Continuing Medical Education Logging Form."

¹ TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-1-402(a).

² TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 0880-03-.12(1)(a)(1)