

32.4 Continuing Education

- 32.4.1 As evidence of continued competence in the knowledge and skills of a physician assistant, all physician assistants shall complete a continuing medical education program of 100 approved credit hours every two years. A minimum of 50 credit hours shall be from Category 1. Proof of completion shall be submitted to the Board with the application for renewal of certification.
- 32.4.2 Certification or recertification by the NCCPA at any time during a 2-year licensure period may be accepted in lieu of 100 hours continuing medical education credits for that 2-year period. PAs must also comply with any applicable continuing medical education requirements established by Vermont law or Board Rule.

32.4.3 Required CME for PAs With D.E.A. Number

All licensees who prescribe controlled substances shall certify at the time of each renewal that they have completed at least two hours of CME

activity on controlled substances prescribing. The activity must be accredited as AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ training, American Academy of Physician Assistants Category 1 training, or be specifically designated as qualifying by the Board. The following topics must be covered, as required by Vermont law: abuse and diversion, safe use, and appropriate storage and disposal of controlled substances; the appropriate use of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System; risk assessment for abuse or addiction; pharmacological and nonpharmacological alternatives to opioids for managing pain; medication tapering and cessation of the use of controlled substances; and relevant State and federal laws and regulations concerning the prescription of opioid controlled substances. Each licensee who is registered with the D.E.A. and who holds a D.E.A. number to prescribe controlled substances, or who has submitted a pending application for one, is presumed to prescribe controlled substances and must meet this requirement. Any physician assistant who is required to certify completion of this CME to renew, but who cannot, will be subject to the provisions regarding makeup of missing CME in subsections 24.3 and 24.4.