



110 Centerview Drive  
Post Office Box 11289  
Columbia, SC 29211-1289  
Phone: (803) 896-4500  
FAX: (803) 896-4515

South Carolina  
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Medical Examiners



Henry D. McMaster  
Governor

Emily H. Farr  
Director

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS'  
STATEMENT ON CME HOURS ON CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES<sup>1</sup>**

South Carolina Code § 40-47-40(2)(a), regarding continuing education required for renewal, states that at least two (2) hours of the forty-hour requirement should be related to approved procedures of prescribing and monitoring controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV. The Board recognizes that not all practitioners maintain a DEA license and therefore do not prescribe controlled substances. Additionally, the Board recognizes that some specialties within the practice of medicine do not prescribe controlled substances.

In an effort to make more meaningful the continuing education of controlled substances of those practitioners who do not prescribe controlled substances, the Board will accept accredited education and training on controlled substances, their use, either generally or specialty specific, their abuse, diversion, and addictive properties and the treatment of same, to satisfy and fulfill the mandatory controlled substances CME requirement.

Practitioners who prescribe controlled substances must still continue to take continuing education related to prescribing and monitoring controlled substances.

As previously noted by the Board, for the purposes of the two-hour requirement listed above, an ACCME or AOA CCME-approved course in prescribing and monitoring controlled substances is required. Offerings that fulfill this requirement include but are not limited to CME hours in controlled substance prescribing sponsored by the Federation of State Medical Boards, the South Carolina Medical Association, other professional organizations with ACCME or AOA CCME certified CME (e.g. AAFP, ACP), and any FDA-REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy) compliant CME courses.

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<sup>1</sup> The Board is authorized by law to (1) publish advisory opinions and position statements relating to practice procedures to comply with acceptable standards of practice; (2) develop minimum standards for continued competency of licensees continuing in or returning to practice; and (5) use minimum standards as a basis for evaluating safe and effective medical practice. S.C. Code § 40-47-10(I).