



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State

Office of Professional Regulation
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James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary
S. Lauren Hibbert, Director

To: Licensees who prescribe or dispense controlled substances, to include: *Osteopathic Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Optometrists, and Naturopathic Physicians*

From: Vermont Office of Professional Regulation (OPR)

Date: December 28, 2020

Re: REMINDER TO COMPLETE TWO HOURS OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE CE

Effective with the passage in [Act 173 \(2016\), Sec. 9](#), Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) licensees with a registration number from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), or who have a pending application for a DEA number, or who dispense controlled substances, shall **complete at least two hours of continuing education as a condition of license renewal**, on the topics of:

- the 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 substance.

Qualifying controlled-substances courses may be counted toward general continuing education requirements. Documentation must be uploaded to the online licensing platform with your renewal application. Check your license expiration date and begin planning now.

OPR does not endorse specific controlled-substance courses or providers. The following sources may guide licensees in locating suitable courses:

- State professional societies or associations
- The Vermont Department of Health, **Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP)**: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/professionals>
- The U.S. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (**SAMHSA**)
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse (**NIDA**)
- The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (**NIAA**)
- The **Vermont Medical Society (VMS)**: <http://www.vtmd.org/cme-courses>
- The **Vermont Board of Medical Practice**: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/systems/medical-practice-board>
- The **Vermont Board of Pharmacy** accepts All ACPE and AMA Category I approved programs and programs approved by pharmacy boards in other states that address the Act 173 topic areas.