

## **REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL CHANGE**

AGENCY: North Carolina Medical Board

RULE CITATION: 21 NCAC 32R .0102

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This request may extend to several pages. Please be sure you have reached the end of the document.*

The Rules Review Commission staff has completed its review of this Rule prior to the Commission's next meeting. The Commission has not yet reviewed this Rule and therefore there has not been a determination as to whether the Rule will be approved. You may call our office to inquire concerning the staff recommendation.

In reviewing this Rule, the staff recommends the following technical changes be made:

*In (a)(5), please add a comma after "the AOA"*

*In (b)(2), please add a comma after "online"*

Please retype the rule accordingly and resubmit it to our office at 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.

Amber May  
Commission Counsel  
Date submitted to agency: November 22, 2021

21 NCAC 32R .0102 is amended as published in 36:06 NCR 377-378 as follows:

**21 NCAC 32R .0102      APPROVED CATEGORIES OF CME**

(a) Category 1 CME providers are:

- (1) Institutions or organizations accredited by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and reciprocating organizations;
- (2) The American Osteopathic Association (AOA);
- (3) A state medical society or association;
- (4) The American Medical Association (AMA);
- (5) Specialty boards accredited by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the AOA or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC;) and
- (6) The Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education.

(b) Category 1 CME education shall be presented, offered, or accredited by a Category 1 provider as set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Rule and shall include:

- (1) Educational courses;
- (2) Scientific or clinical presentations or publications;
- (3) Printed, recorded, audio, video, online or electronic educational materials for which CME credits are awarded by the provider;
- (4) Journal-based CME activities within a peer-reviewed, professional journal;
- (5) Skill development;
- (6) Performance improvement activities; ~~or~~
- (7) Interprofessional continuing education—education; or
- (8) Cultural competency or implicit bias training.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1;*

*Eff. January 1, 2000;*

*Amended Eff. August 1, 2012; July 1, 2007; January 1, 2001;*

*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1, 2016;*

*Amended Eff. January 1, 2022; September 1, 2020.*

21 NCAC 32S .0216 is amended as published in 36:06 NCR 377-378 as follows:

**21 NCAC 32S .0216 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

(a) A physician assistant shall complete at least 50 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) every two years. The CME shall be recognized by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as Category I CME. The physician assistant shall provide CME documentation for inspection by the Board or its agent upon request. The two-year period shall begin on the physician assistant's birthday following the issuance of his or her license.

(b) A physician assistant who prescribes controlled substances shall complete at least two hours of CME, from the required 50 hours, designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing practices and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management. CME that includes recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, or non-opioid treatment options shall qualify for purposes of this Rule.

(c) A physician assistant who possesses a current certification with the NCCPA shall be deemed in compliance with the requirement of Paragraph (a) of this Rule. The physician assistant shall attest on his or her annual renewal he or she is currently certified by the NCCPA. Physician assistants who attest he or she possesses a current certificate with the NCCPA shall not be exempt from the controlled substance prescribing CME requirement of Paragraph (b) of this Rule. A physician assistant shall complete the required two hours of controlled substance CME unless the CME is a component part of their certification activity.

(d) Courses pertaining to interprofessional continuing education and courses pertaining to cultural competency or implicit bias training shall qualify for any CME hours required under this Rule so long as such courses are approved by the NCCPA.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-5.1(a)(3); 90-5.1(a)(10); 90-18.1; S.L. 2015-241, 12F.16(b) and 12F.16(c); Eff. September 1, 2009;  
Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; November 1, 2010;  
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 1, 2016;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 2022; April 1, 2020; September 1, 2016.*