

**Excerpt from Board of Medical Practice Administrative Rules
Provisions on CME for PAs**

32.0 Physician Assistant Professional Standards; Disciplinary Procedures

32.1 Prescribing Controlled Substances for Participating Physician

It is unprofessional conduct for a physician assistant to prescribe or dispense controlled substances listed in D.E.A. Schedules II, III, or IV for a physician who is the PA's participating physician.

32.2 Prescribing for or Treating Participating Physician

It is discouraged for a PA to prescribe or dispense non-controlled prescription substances for the PA's participating physician. PAs who treat their participating physician are required to meet all standards of appropriate care, including proper establishment of a professional relationship with the patient and maintenance of appropriate patient records.

32.3 Practice Without a Practice Agreement in Place

It is unprofessional conduct for a physician assistant to practice without having a valid practice agreement that applies to the practice setting and the care provided, unless one of the two exceptions stated in 26 V.S.A. § 1734c(b) and 26 V.S.A. § 1735a(e) applies. The practice agreement must be on file with the Board. Licensees should verify that practice agreements were received by the Board by checking the Board's online system.

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.