



OPIOID EDUCATION CURRICULUM

The act of November 2, 2016 (P.L. 987, No. 126) (Act 126 of 2016), 35 Pa.C.S. § 5102, requires the State Board of Medicine (Board) to adopt an opioid education curriculum to be offered in colleges or by other educational providers, including continuing education providers.¹

Under Act 126 of 2016, the curriculum must include all of the following:

- (1) Current, age-appropriate information relating to pain management.
- (2) Multimodal treatments for chronic pain that minimize the use of a controlled substance containing an opioid.
- (3) If a controlled substance containing an opioid is indicated, instruction on safe methods of prescribing a controlled substance containing an opioid that follow guideline-based care.
- (4) Identification of patients who have risk factors for developing problems with prescription of a controlled substance containing an opioid.
- (5) Training on managing substance use disorders as a chronic disease.

The Board has adopted the PA-SUPPORT curriculum, entitled “Source for Understanding Pain, Prescribing Opioids, and Recovery Treatment” is posted on the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University’s website at [Center for Substance Abuse Research Educational Programs | Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University](#)

The curriculum offered by the Board is not a mandate of the curriculum necessary for graduation though under Act 126 of 2016, colleges may require the curriculum to be necessary to graduate after August 1, 2017.

¹ Act 126 of 2016 is available on the Legislature’s website at: [2016 Act 126 - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](#)