

OPIOID EDUCATION FOR PHARMACIST APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS SUBMITTED AFTER JULY 1, 2017

Section 9.1(a) of ABC-MAP* requires that all prescribers or dispensers, as defined in Section 3 of ABC-MAP, applying for licensure complete at least 4 hours of Board-approved education consisting of 2 hours in pain management or the identification of addiction and 2 hours in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. Pharmacists fall within ABC-MAP's definition of prescribers or dispensers.

Requirements for initial applicants

Pharmacist applicants seeking licensure on or after July 1, 2017, must document, within one year from issuance of the license to practice pharmacy, that they completed this education either as part of the applicant's professional degree educational program or a Board-approved continuing education program. This 4 hours of Board-approved education needs to be completed only once.

Renewals

To renew a license to practice pharmacy for the next renewal period, Section 9.1(a)(2) of ABC-MAP requires that all pharmacists complete at least two hours of continuing education in pain management, the identification of addiction or in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. The continuing education requirements of ABC-MAP will count towards the total number of hours of continuing education (CE) required for renewal. This two-hour requirement needs to be completed only once per renewal period. This continuing education must be taken from a Board-approved continuing education provider in accordance with Section 27.32 of the Board's regulations and its completion attested to when applying for renewal. To ensure Board of Pharmacy approval for Act 124, it should be clear from the title of the CE that the course is instructive on the subjects specified in Act 124; pain management, identification of addiction, and/or the practices of prescribing or dispensing opioids.

The Department of State is currently under contract to develop additional Act 124 qualifying continuing education courses more specific to pharmacists. These courses are expected to be available in early 2018. As stated above, the Board of Pharmacy will currently accept any course on pain management, identification of addiction, and/or the practices of prescribing or dispensing opioids from any pharmacist continuing education provider accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

*The Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program Act (ABC-MAP) (also known as Act 124 of 2016), 35 P.S. § 872.3, is available on the Legislature's website at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2016&sessInd=0&act=124>.

Section 27.32 of the Board's Regulations are available on the Board's website at: <http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Pharmacy/Pages/Board-Laws-and-Regulations.aspx>.