

Wisconsin Responsible Opioid Prescribing Continuing Education Requirement

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions for License Holders

What do I have to take?

Each physician must take two hours of approved continuing education on responsible opioid prescribing. The course must have been approved by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

When do I have to take it by?

The course is a part of the general continuing education requirement for renewal and must be completed by 12/31/2017 in order to renew your license.

What courses are available?

A list of approved courses is available on our website. Courses will be continuously added as they are approved.

Do I have to submit proof of taking a course?

No, you do not need to submit anything to the Department. You are required to maintain records of your completion, but you should only submit them in the event that you are audited.

Can I get credit for a course I have already taken?

No. The course needs to be approved by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board at the time of the physician's attendance. You should not submit previous courses to the Board for review.

Can I submit a course I would like to have considered for approval?

Individual license holders should not submit course applications. Only ACCME-approved providers of CME should be submitting applications to the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

Can I have an exemption from the requirement?

There are only two exemptions from the requirement.

1. If you do not have a DEA number for prescribing controlled substances. Even if you do not prescribe in Wisconsin or do not prescribe opioids, you are still required to complete the continuing education if you have an active DEA number. (If you were once issued a DEA number but it is no longer active, you would be exempt just as if you did not have a number at all.)
2. Fellows, residents, and other license holders currently in postgraduate training are exempt from CME requirements, including the opioid requirement, for renewal as long as they have satisfactorily completed three or more consecutive months of training during the biennium.

Questions for Course Providers

What are the requirements to get the course approved?

You must be an ACCME-approved provider of CME to provide a course. The course must be a minimum of two hours in length/2 AMA Category 1 credits. The course must substantially cover the Wisconsin-specific guidelines regarding responsible opioid prescribing. The course application must be approved prior to the course being offered.

What are you looking for when you review the course?

The course is being reviewed to ensure it comprehensively covers the Wisconsin-specific guidelines for responsible opioid prescribing. If the course was not written specifically for the Wisconsin guidelines, a grid or timed outline should be included that clearly indicates where in the course each of the guidelines is covered. A course cannot be approved unless it covers all of the Wisconsin guidelines.

What is the timeline on approvals?

The timeline varies depending on volume of applications and the workload of the Board liaisons and Department staff. Course applications should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the course in order to give the Department and the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board enough time to review the course.