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**THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANTS**
**ADVISORY ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MANDATORY
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Due to changes in the law, physician assistants are required to obtain continuing medical education (CME) in particular subject matters as a condition of licensure. For those physician assistants who prescribe controlled substances, pursuant to M.G.L.c. 94C §18, physician assistants must complete CMEs in the following topics:

1. Effective pain management;
2. The risks of abuse and addiction associated with opioid medication;
3. Identification of patients at risk for substance use disorders;
4. Counseling patients about the side effects, addictive nature and proper storage and disposal of prescription medications;
5. Appropriate prescription quantities for prescription medications that have an increased risk of abuse; and
6. Opioid antagonists, overdose prevention treatments and instances in which a patient may be advised on both the use of and ways to access opioid antagonists and overdose prevention treatments.

Until the Board develops standards for appropriate training that meets the new statutory requirements, the Board refers you to an educational program offered by the Boston University School of Medicine, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the New England Division of the US Drug Enforcement Agency, the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the Massachusetts Hospital Association. Additional resources can be found at the links below:

<https://www.acponline.org/meetings-courses/focused-topics/safe-opioid-prescribing-strategies-assessment-fundamentals-education>

[http://www.massmed.org/Continuing-Education-and-Events/Online-CME/Courses/Opioid-Prescribing-Series---Module-1/Opioid-Prescribing-Series-\(6-Modules\)/](http://www.massmed.org/Continuing-Education-and-Events/Online-CME/Courses/Opioid-Prescribing-Series---Module-1/Opioid-Prescribing-Series-(6-Modules)/)

<http://prescribersletter.therapeuticresearch.com/home.aspx?tab=0#tab>