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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 2 that the Board of Registration in Podiatry will hold a public hearing and accept public comments on Emergency Amendments to its regulations: 249 CMR 3.00: *Application and Licensure* and 249 CMR 4.00: *Practice of Podiatric Medicine*. The emergency amendments pertain to the prescription of hydrocodone-only extended-release medication by podiatrists and the statutory requirement that podiatrists obtain continuing education in opioid education and pain management. The authority for these amendments is M.G.L. c. 112, § 17A and M.G.L. c. 94C, § 18(e).

The amendments require that podiatrists take certain actions prior to prescribing hydrocodone-only extended-release medication that is not in an abuse deterrent formulation. Specifically, podiatrists must thoroughly assess the patient, check for other prescriptions on the Prescription Monitoring Program, discuss the risks and benefits of the medication, enter into a Pain Management Treatment Agreement and supply the patient with a Letter of Medical Necessity. The emergency amendments may be viewed on the Board's website:

<http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/pd>.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 11 am at 1000 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02118 in Room 1C. For directions please visit the Division of Professional Licensure's website. Interested parties will be given an opportunity to present testimony orally or in writing at the hearing. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2014. Written comments may be mailed to the Board of Registration in Podiatry 1000 Washington Street, Suite 710, Boston, Massachusetts 02118-6100, Attention Neldy Jean-Francois, Executive Director or emailed to joann.termine@state.ma.us. A copy of the proposed regulations may be obtained at the Board's website at <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/pd> or by contacting the Board at 617-727-3084.

Reasonable accommodations or modifications will be provided to enable individuals with disabilities to participate at the hearing. All requests should be directed to Deborah Cassano by calling (617) 727-3110 or TTY/TDD: (617) 727-2099 by no later than June 13th, 2014. While the Division of Professional Licensure will attempt to honor all requests, those requests received after June 13, 2014 may not be provided due to feasibility.

