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Board of Registration in Pharmacy

Advisory: Pain Management Training for CDTM Pharmacists

In March of 2016 Governor Baker signed into law *An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education, and Prevention* to address the deadly opioid and heroin epidemic plaguing the Commonwealth. One aspect of the law is a new continuing education requirement for pharmacists with prescriptive authority pursuant to a collaborative drug therapy management (“CDTM”).

CDTM pharmacists who possess or wish to obtain an individual Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration (“MCSR”) for prescriptive purposes must complete appropriate training as described in M.G.L. c. 94C, § 18(e) upon initial application and subsequently during each pharmacist license renewal period.

M.G.L. c. 94C, § 18(e) now reads:

- (e) Practitioners who prescribe controlled substances, except veterinarians, shall be required, as a prerequisite to obtaining or renewing their professional license, to complete appropriate training relative to:
- (i) effective pain management;
 - (ii) the risks of abuse and addiction associated with opioid medication;
 - (iii) identification of patients at risk for substance use disorders;
 - (iv) counseling patients about the side effects, addictive nature and proper storage and disposal of prescription medications;
 - (v) appropriate prescription quantities for prescription medications that have an increased risk of abuse; and
 - (vi) opioid antagonists, overdose prevention treatments and instances in which a patient may be advised on both the use and ways to access opioid antagonists and overdose prevention treatments.

The boards of registration for each professional license that requires such training shall develop the standards for appropriate training programs.

Please be advised that completion of **at least one hour** of training will satisfy the requirements set forth in both M.G.L. c. 94C, § 18(e). Should this training be recognized as continuing education, it may be used toward the additional 5 contact hours required for pharmacists entered in a collaborative practice agreement pursuant to 247 CMR 16.00. Currently, there are online programs that satisfy the requirements mentioned above. One such program is from Boston University, *Prescribe to Prevent*.

Please direct any questions to: Pharmacy.Admin@mass.gov