



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State

Office of Professional Regulation
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James C. Condos, Secretary of State
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Notice of Required Continuing Education Regarding Controlled Substances

To: OPR licensed professionals who prescribe or dispense controlled substances, to include; *Osteopathic Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Optometrists, and Naturopathic Physicians*

From: Vermont Office of Professional Regulation (OPR)

Date: March 22, 2018

Re: Continuing Education Requirement for License Renewal

Effective with the passage in 2016 of Vermont Act 173, all Office of Professional Regulation dispensing and prescribing professions, (as listed above), with a registration number from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), who have a pending application for a DEA number, or who dispense controlled substances, **shall complete at least two hours of continuing education for each full licensing period beginning on or after June 8, 2016** on the topics of:

- the abuse and diversion, safe use, and appropriate storage and disposal of controlled substances;
- the appropriate use of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System;
- risk assessment for abuse or addiction;
- pharmacological and nonpharmacological alternatives to opioids for managing pain;
- medication tapering and cessation of the use of controlled substances; and,
- relevant State and federal laws and regulations concerning the prescription of opioid controlled substance.

Documentation of these completed continuing education hours must be uploaded to the online licensing platform during your renewal. This is required with your first full renewal period beginning after the June 8, 2016, effective date of Act 173. Please refer to your current license expiration date(s) to plan for this requirement.

For further information on this requirement, refer to Vermont 2016 ACT 173 (S.243), an act relating to combating opioid abuse in Vermont, Section 9 Continuing Education.