



Texas Medical Board

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06 February 2020

SUBJECT: Initial Guidance on New Opioid Continuing Medical Education (CME) Requirements in House Bill (HB) 2174, HB 2454, and HB 3285

To Whom It May Concern,

The Texas Medical Board (TMB) continues working towards rules regarding new opioid continuing medical education (CME) requirements as provided in House Bill (HB) 2174, HB 2454, and HB 3285.

Until rules are adopted, TMB provides the following guidance on TMB's initial interpretation of the three previously mentioned HBs:

- 1.) All three HBs require a cumulative or total of two (2) CME hours to be completed within each renewal period (every two years)
- 2.) All three HBs require the following physicians to complete the two (2) CME hours:
 - a. those engaged in direct-patient-care;
 - b. those who prescribe, order, or administer opioids or controlled substances; or
 - c. those with a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number for prescribing or ordering opioids or controlled substances
- 3.) The topics that must be covered during the two (2) CME hours are:
 - a. approved procedures of prescribing and monitoring controlled substances (HB 2174);
 - b. safe and effective pain management related to the prescription of opioids and other controlled substances, including education regarding:
 - i. reasonable standard of care;
 - ii. the identification of drug-seeking behavior in patients; and
 - iii. effectively communicating with patients regarding the prescription of an opioid or other controlled substance (HB 2454); and

- c. best practices, alternative treatment options, and multi-modal approaches to pain management that may include physical therapy, psychotherapy, and other treatments (HB 3285)
- 4.) Completion of the above two (2) CME hours can count toward the ethics requirement
- 5.) Completion of the above two (2) CME hours can count toward the 10 annual CME hours required for pain management clinics (PMCs)
- 6.) Opioid CME hours completed after a physician's last renewal date, or initial licensure (including issuance of a physician-in-training (PIT) permit) date if no renewal has occurred, but prior to the date of this guidance may satisfy the above two (2) CME hours if:
 - a. at least two (2) hours were completed; and
 - b. those hours covered or substantially covered the above topics

TMB will provide additional guidance and clarification as soon as possible.



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