

# THE E-BULLETIN

NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Bringing New York State Psychiatrists Together



## NEW MANDATORY COURSE WORK OR TRAINING IN PAIN MANAGEMENT, PALLIATIVE CARE AND ADDICTION

The New York Public Health Law was amended last year to establish new mandatory continuing education requirements in the areas of pain management, palliative care and addiction. These changes reflect efforts to address the problem of opioid abuse.

PHL Section 3309-a(3) requires all physicians (including all non-physician prescribers) who have a DEA registration number to complete at least three hours of course work or training in pain management, palliative care and addiction. This requirement also applies to medical residents who prescribe controlled substances under a facility DEA registration number.

The initial course work or training must be completed no later than July 1, 2017 and once every three years thereafter. The required course work or training must cover the following eight topics:

- (1) NYS and federal requirements for prescribing controlled substances;
- (2) Pain management;
- (3) Appropriate prescribing;
- (4) Managing acute pain;
- (5) Palliative medicine;
- (6) Prevention, screening and signs of addiction;
- (7) Responses to abuse and addiction; and
- (8) End of life care.

The course work or training may be completed in a live or online format. The course work or training may be covered by a single presentation or by multiple individual presentations, as long as the each of the above topics is covered.

Providers will be required to attest to completion of the required course work or training. The Department of Health has not yet released instructions for submitting an attestation, but has indicated that more information is coming soon. Any course work or

training completed between July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2017 will qualify for the initial July 1, 2017 attestation requirement. For each subsequent attestation period, the course work or training must be completed during the relevant attestation period.

Currently available courses:

- **The New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians** is offering a three-hour online course on the required eight topics in conjunction with the Boston University School of Medicine. This course is available free of charge to all providers. For more information please view the course announcement by clicking [here](#) or visit the NYACP website at <http://www.nyacp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3831>.
- **The Medical Society of the State of New York** is also offering three 1-hour online courses covering the required eight topics. The courses are free to MSSNY members and will be made available to non-members for a fee of \$50 per module. For more information about the online courses, please visit the MSSNY website at: [http://www.mssny.org/MSSNY/Public\\_Health/Opioid\\_Abuse/Opioid\\_CME\\_Webinar\\_Course.aspx](http://www.mssny.org/MSSNY/Public_Health/Opioid_Abuse/Opioid_CME_Webinar_Course.aspx)
- **For a list of other approved continuing education providers**, please view a copy of the DOH Mandatory Prescriber Education Guidance, the link to which is provided below.

The statute provides an exemption from the course work or training requirement for DEA registered providers: (i) who clearly demonstrate to the Department that there would be no need for the provider to complete such course work or training or (ii) who have completed course work or training equivalent to courses approved by the Department.

At this time, DOH has not yet provided further guidance regarding these limited exemptions or the waiver application process. We will distribute this information to our members as soon as it becomes available. Providers who do not have a DEA number will be automatically exempt and will not need to apply for a waiver.

For more information please review the **DOH Mandatory Prescriber Education Guidance** document by clicking [here](#). Additional information will be posted on the DOH website at: <https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/>.