Continuing education requirements for physicians and advanced practice nurse prescribers were passed in 2016 as part of a comprehensive state-wide strategy to address prescription drug abuse.

**PHYSICIAN (MD/DO) REQUIREMENTS:** The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) requires two CME credits related to the MEB Opioid Prescribing Guideline for license renewal. This requirement is in effect for the current CME biennium and another two credits of CME will be required in the next CME biennium.

- The two credit requirement is part of the 30 credit total, not an addition to the total.
- The two CME credits must be from a MEB approved course.
- **Exemptions:** There are only two exemptions from the requirement [WI DSPS FAQ]:
  1. If you do not have a DEA number for prescribing controlled substances. Even if you do not prescribe in Wisconsin or do not prescribe opioids, you are still required to complete the continuing education if you have a DEA number.
  2. Fellows, residents, and other license holders currently in postgraduate training are exempt from CME requirements, including the opioid requirement, for renewal as long as they have satisfactorily completed three or more consecutive months of training during the biennium.
- A list of approved courses is available on the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) website. Multiple online and in person options are available including:
  - **COMING SOON:** Wheaton Franciscan Health Care – All Saints (Ascension WI) online program will be available in mid to late March and will be free to Ascension WI providers. This program is presented by Dr. David Galbis-Reig, Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine, and member of the Wisconsin Medical Society Opioid Task Force that developed the opioid prescribing guideline. Registration information will be shared when the program is available.
  - The [Wisconsin Medical Society](https://www.wms.org) online program is available for a fee.

**ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE PRESCRIVER (APNP) REQUIREMENTS:** The Wisconsin Board of Nursing requires every APNP to complete at least 2 contact hours in responsible prescribing of controlled substances for certification renewal.

- Any of the MEB approved courses are acceptable for APNP renewal.
- In addition, any two hour course on responsible prescribing of controlled substances would be acceptable whether or not they have been approved specifically by Wisconsin ([Email communication](mailto:Peter.Schramm@Ascension.org), January 30, 2017).

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS** are not required to complete continuing education on opioid prescribing at this time, but are highly encouraged to do so as part of the overall safe opioid prescribing initiative.

For questions, contact Peggy Lutz, Service Line Director, Pain Management [peggy.lutz@ascension.org](mailto:peggy.lutz@ascension.org) or Robert Sediacek, MD, Family Medicine, Merrill [robert.sediacek@ascension.org](mailto:robert.sediacek@ascension.org)