



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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FAQs about Safe Opioid Prescribing Practices Continuing Education (CE) requirement in effect for all prescribers renewing in 2020

Prescribers with Controlled Substances Registrations are required to complete 1 hour of continuing education (CE) on safe opioid prescribing practices to renew their Controlled Substances Registration. This requirement can be included in the total number of hours required to renew a professional license. This requirement will be in effect for all Controlled Substances Registration renewals in 2020 and after.

1. What professions are required to complete this CE?

This requirement applies to individuals that are prescribers under the Controlled Substances Act and have a Controlled Substance Registration. This includes the following licenses:

- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, including Full-Practice Authority (309, 377)
- Dentists (319)
- Optometrist (346)
- Podiatric Physician (316)
- Physician Assistant (385)
- Physician (336)
- Veterinarian (390)

2. I am a licensed health care provider, but I do not have a Controlled Substances Registration. Do I have to take this CE?

No, this requirement only applies to individuals who have Controlled Substances Registrations.

3. Who can provide this CE?

- A professional association (either directly offered or accredited)
- An Illinois state government agency
- A federal government agency
- A CE provider accepted or approved by the Rules for your profession.
- Courses used to meet accreditation or certification requirements.

Note: The content of the course must be applicable to the scope of your profession. For example, a course that focuses specifically on safe prescribing practices for dental patients would not be acceptable for optometrists.

4. Does my employer qualify?

If the course offered by your employer falls under the above categories, the CE will count.

5. I have a Controlled Substances Registration but I do not prescribe opioids or I am not authorized to prescribe opioids. Am I required to complete this CE?

Yes, the law requires every prescriber who is licensed to prescribe controlled substances to complete this CE.

6. This is my first time renewing my Illinois Controlled Substances Registration, do I need to complete this CE?

Yes, there is no exemption for the first renewal of your Controlled Substances Registration. My profession requires 40 hours of CE.

7. Does this new requirement mean I will need to complete 41 hours to renew both licenses?

No, the safe opioid prescribing practices CE requirement can be included in the number of CE hours required for your profession.

8. How do I document that I completed the safe opioid prescribing practices CE? Will I have to send proof that I completed the course to the Department?

You should receive Certificate of Completion from the provider when you complete the course. The Certificate should include information such as the number of hours completed, the name of the sponsor, and the date the CE was completed.

You will not need to provide a Certificate if you renew on time, but you may be asked to confirm that you have completed the training. You may be asked to provide a Certificate if you renew late, need to restore or reinstate an expired license, or if you are included in a CE audit.

9. Is this a one-time requirement, or I will have to take this training again?

You will need to safe opioid prescribing practices again for every renewal of your Controlled Substance Registration.

10. My Controlled Substances Registration license is in 'Not-Renewed'/'Suspended' status. Will I need to complete safe opioid prescribing practices CE to restore or reinstate my Controlled Substances Registration?

Yes, you will need to provide proof of completion of 1 hour of CE on safe opioid prescribing practices to restore or reinstate your Controlled Substances Registration. This can be included in any CE hours needed to reactivate your professional license.

Please refer to [Section 5 of The Public Act 100-1106](#) posted on October 2019.