



**Notice of proposed changes relating to licensure requirements,
continuing medical education requirements, renewal, physician assistant
requirements, and prescribing controlled substances**

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

March 2018

1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations?

Last year, the Alaska State Legislature enacted Chapter 2 SSSLA 2017 (HB159), to implement new education requirements in pain management and opioid use and addiction. By July 1, 2018, initial applicants for licensure and license renewal applicants for physicians, physician assistants, and mobile intensive care paramedics must meet this new education requirements.

2. What will this regulation do?

- **12 AAC 40.010, 12 AAC 40.015, 12 AAC 40.023, 12 AAC 40.200, 12 AAC 40.210, 12 AAC 40.310, and 12 AAC 40.400.** The proposed regulations amends the standards for prescribing controlled substances to comply with HB159, which requires the Board to adopt regulations to implement new opioid education requirements for initial and renewal licensure for physicians, physician assistants, and mobile intensive care paramedics. It will require for new applicants and renewal applicants to include completion of at least two hours of education in pain management and opioid use and addiction.

The new education requirement does not increase the number of hours required for renewal. At least two of the total hours that are already required to qualify for renewal must be specific to pain management and opioid use and addiction. The education must be earned in a Category I continuing medical education program accredited by the American Medical Association, or earned in a Category I or II continuing medical education program accredited by the American Osteopathic Association. For a podiatrist, it may instead be earned in a continuing medical education program from a provider that is approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME). For a physician assistant, it may instead be earned in a continuing medical education program approved by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

- **12 AAC 40.350.** Amends the number of continuing medical education hours that may be completed by a formal correspondence or other individual study program to qualify for renewal of a mobile intensive care paramedic license. This change will allow up to one-third of the total hours of required education to be completed in a formal correspondence or other individual study program.

- **12 AAC 40.058 and 12 AAC 40.405.** Adopts by reference the updated checklists used for review of applications for temporary permits.
- **12 AAC 40.975.** Amends the standards for prescribing controlled substances to comply with HB 159, which allows the Board to sanction a licensee that has prescribed or dispensed an opioid in excess of the maximum dosage, adds a new section limiting opioid dosage to a seven-day supply, applies the new opioid requirements to the telemedicine statute, and amends the definition of opioids. It authorizes the Board to require that a licensee review PDMP information when dispensing, prescribing, or administering Schedule II or II controlled substances.

3. When will the new continuing education requirements for renewal apply?

It's to be implemented in time to be effective for the upcoming license renewal this December.

4. What are the cost to comply with the proposed regulations?

None known.

5. When will the regulations be effective?

After public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, or choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations goes to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.