

CME Requirements

One hundred (100) CME credits during the two years immediately preceding the birthday license renewal date are required for physician license renewal. *The majority of credits must be earned in study directly related to the physician's primary area(s) of practice.*

Credits shall be earned as follows:

- a *minimum* of forty (40) credits completed in category 1. (The entire 100-credit requirement may be completed in Category 1).
- and, a *maximum* of sixty (60) credits completed in category 2.

Also, **required and included** in the biennial 100 credits of CME:

- two (2) credits of study of the MA Board of Registration in Medicine's regulations (243 CMR 1.00-5.00). A copy of the regulations may be obtained by going to <http://www.mass.gov/massmedboard>, and clicking on Regulations and Policies.
- ten (10) credits total of **risk management study** with a *minimum* of four (4) credits in category 1. (The remaining six credits may be in category 1 or category 2).

Risk management study *must* include instruction in medical malpractice prevention such as risk identification, patient safety, and loss prevention. In addition, it may include courses in medical ethics, quality assurance, medical-legal issues, patient relations, non-economic aspects of practice management, or courses designed to reduce the likelihood of medical malpractice through means other than increasing the licensee's medical education and technical competence. Risk management study also includes review of the Board's Patient Care Assessment regulations (234 CMR 3.01-3.16) and participation on designated peer review committees dealing with quality assurance.

Effective Pain Management

Effective Feb. 1, 2012, physicians applying to renew their license or obtain a new license must complete at least three (3) credits of education and training in pain management and opioid education. **This requirement applies to all physicians who prescribe controlled substances (Schedules I through VI).** [According to state regulations](#) (pdf), such education includes training in effective pain management, identification of patients at high risk for substance abuse, counseling patients about side effects, and the addictive nature and proper storage and disposal of prescription drugs. These hours will qualify as either category 1 or category 2, and may be counted as risk management credits.

Recommended CME Activities

- [Managing Risk When Prescribing Narcotic Painkillers for Patients](#)
- [Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing for Chronic Pain](#)

End of Life Care

Effective Feb. 1, 2012, physicians must also take two (2) CME credits in end of life care. The credits qualify as either category 1 or category 2, and may be counted as risk management credits.

Recommended CME Activities

- [Legal Advisor: Advance Directives](#)

Future CME Requirements

In 2015, such applicants must also certify their competence in the use of electronic health records.