



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
BOARD OF DENTAL PRACTICE
143 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0143

GERALDINE A. SCHNEIDER, DMD, CHAIR
AUBURN

LISA P. HOWARD, DDS, VICE CHAIR
KENNEBUNK

GLEN S. DAVIS, DMD
DAMARISCOTTA

PAUL P. DUNBAR, DDS
WINSLOW

NANCY L. FOSTER, RDH, EFDA, EdM
HAMPDEN

CATHERINE J. KASPRAK, IPDH
FRYEBURG

ROWAN H. MORSE, PUBLIC MEMBER
FALMOUTH

STEPHEN G. MORSE, DMD
PORTLAND

KATHRYN A. YOUNG, LD
SOUTH BRISTOL

PENNY VAILLANCOURT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 26, 2017

**Informational Letter Regarding Opioid Medication Prescribing Requirements
and Proposed Changes to Board Rule, Chapter 13 "Continuing Education"**

The Maine Board of Dental Practice is providing this informational letter to licensees to further clarify the opioid medication prescribing requirements pursuant to Public Law 2016, c. 488, and to highlight specific proposed changes to Board Rule, Chapter 13 "Continuing Education" which is set for a public hearing on **Friday, July 14, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.**

Opioid Training – 3 hour continuing education requirement:

- This law applies to any licensee of the Maine Board of Dental Practice who prescribes opioid medication.
- Licensees must complete 3 hours of continuing education related to the prescribing of opioid medication as a condition to prescribe opioid medication. The deadline to complete this requirement is December 31, 2017. Do not submit course documentation to the Board, rather retain the documentation for your records.
- Completion of 3 credit hours related to the prescribing of opioid medication coursework is not required to renew a license on or before December 31, 2017. However, licensees may use the completed coursework towards their 40 credit hour requirement for renewal, so long as it meets the requirements outlined in Board Rule, Chapter 13.

Board Rule, Chapter 13 "Continuing Education":

- Current rule:
 - Requires dentists to complete 40 hours of continuing education. As noted above, dentists may claim 3 hours of continuing education credit for successfully completing an opioid medication course so long as it meets the current rule category requirements.
 - Note: faculty dentists are not required to complete continuing education as a condition to renew a license.
- Proposed rule:
 - See "Important Notices" on the Board's website to access the rulemaking notice: <http://www.maine.gov/dental/index.html>
 - Highlights of the proposal include new language regarding opioid medication prescribing, and continuing education requirements for faculty dentists. These proposed rules, if formally adopted, will go into effect for the renewal period ending December 31, 2019.

Should you have any questions regarding this informational letter, please contact Penny Vaillancourt, Executive Director, by email at penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov or by using the contact information on the Board's website.