

VERIFICATION OF OPIOID EDUCATION FOR DOCTOR OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE APPLICATIONS AND
RENEWALS SUBMITTED AFTER JULY 1, 2017

Section 9.1(a) of ABC-MAP* requires that all prescribers or dispensers, as defined in Section 3 of ABC-MAP, applying for licensure/certification complete at least four (4) hours of Board-approved education consisting of two (2) hours in pain management or the identification of addiction and two (2) hours in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. Podiatrists fall within ABC-MAP's definition of prescribers or dispensers.

Requirements for initial applicants

Podiatric medicine applicants seeking licensure on or after July 1, 2017 must document, within one (1) year from issuance of the license, that they completed this education either as part of an accredited podiatric medicine education program, or a stand-alone course from a Board-approved continuing education course provider. The four (4) hours of Board-approved education needs to be completed only once.

Where this education is part of the podiatric medicine educational program, verification of completion from the program may be included within the Verification of Podiatry Education. Where the education is completed as stand-alone opioid education, verification of completion from a continuing education provider approved by the Board may be documented on the Verification of Opioid Education or on a Certificate of Completion that includes the name of the course, the specific number of hours in each of the required content areas, and the date completed. The verification forms will be available on the website at www.dos.pa.gov/pod.

Renewals

In order to renew a podiatric medicine license for the next renewal period, section 9.1(a)(2) of ABC-MAP requires that all podiatrist complete at least two (2) hours of continuing education in pain management, the identification of addiction, or the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. The continuing education requirements of ABC-MAP will count towards the total number of continuing education credits required for renewal. This continuing education must be taken from a continuing education provider approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or the Board, and its completion attested to when applying for renewal. This two-hour requirement needs to be completed only once per renewal period.

To ensure Board approval for Act 124, it should be clear from the title of the CE that the course is instructive on the subjects specified in Act 124; pain management, identification of addiction, and/or the practices of prescribing or dispensing opioids.

The Department is currently under contract to develop additional Act 124 qualifying continuing education courses more specific to podiatrists. These courses expect to be available early 2018. As stated above, the Board will currently accept any course on pain management, identification of addiction, and/or the practices of prescribing or dispensing opioids from any Board approved provider.

*The Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program Act (ABC-MAP) (also known as Act 124 of 2016), 35 P.S. § 872.3, is available on the Legislature's website at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2016&sessInd=0&act=124>