

VERIFICATION OF OPIOID EDUCATION FOR OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT 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 4 hours of Board-approved education consisting of 2 hours in pain management or the identification of addiction and 2 hours in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. Osteopathic physician and surgeons and osteopathic physician assistants fall within ABC-MAP's definition of prescribers or dispensers.

Requirements for initial applicants

Osteopathic physician and surgeons and osteopathic physician assistants must document within one (1) year from issuance of the license that they completed this education either as part of their professional degree education program and its completion attested to when applying for renewal. The four (4) hours of Board-approved education needs to be completed only once.

Where this education is part of the professional degree educational program, verification of completion from the Program may be included within the Verification of Medical Education (for all osteopathic physicians) or Verification of Graduation from a Physician Assistant Program (for osteopathic physician assistants). The Verification forms will be available on the website at <http://www.dos.pa.gov/ost>.

Renewals

In order for osteopathic physician and surgeons and osteopathic physician assistants to renew their license for the next renewal period, section 9.1(a)(2) of ABC-MAP requires that they 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. For physicians, this continuing education must be in American Osteopathic Association (AOA) PRA Category 1 or 2 approved activities or American Medical Association (AMA) PRA Category 1 or 2 approved activities. For osteopathic physician assistants, this continuing education must be acceptable for credit by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

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 physician and surgeons and physician assistants. 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>