

## **Important HB 1 CME Reminder**

HB 1, as passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2012, called on the Board to amend its continuing medical education regulation, 201 KAR 9:310, to require physicians who prescribe or dispense controlled substances in Kentucky to complete 4.5 hours of CME relating to the use of KASPER, pain management, addiction disorders, or a combination of two or more of those subjects. A physician may satisfy this requirement by completing a single approved program of 4.5 hours or longer or by completing multiple approved programs for a total of 4.5 hours.

As the end of the current CME cycle is fast approaching, December 31, 2017, the Board would like remind all licensed physicians who are authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances in the Commonwealth of this important CME requirement. The requirement as stipulated by 201 KAR 9:310 is listed as follows:

- (2) Each physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy within the Commonwealth of Kentucky who is authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances within the Commonwealth implemented since July 20, 2012 through the end of the current three (3) year continuing education cycle beginning on January 1, 2015 and ending on December 31, 2017 shall complete at least four and one-half (4.5) hours of approved Category I Credit continuing medical education hours relating to the use of KASPER, pain management, addiction disorders, or a combination of two (2) or more of those subjects on or before December 31, 2017. The licensee may satisfy this requirement by completing a single approved program of four and one-half (4.5) hours or longer or by completing multiple approved programs for a total of four and one-half (4.5) hours or longer for this cycle.

- (3) Each physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy within the Commonwealth of Kentucky who is authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances during the calendar years 2016 and 2017, but not during any portion of 2015, shall complete at least three (3) hours of approved Category I Credit continuing medical education hours relating to the use of KASPER, pain management, addiction disorders, or a combination of two (2) or more of those subjects on or before December 31, 2017. The licensee may satisfy this requirement by completing a single approved program of three (3) hours or longer or by completing multiple approved programs for a total of three (3) hours or longer for those two (2) years.

- (4) Each physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy within the Commonwealth of Kentucky who is authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances during calendar year 2017, but not during any portion of 2015 or 2016, shall complete at least one and one-half (1.5) hours of approved Category I Credit continuing medical education hours relating to the use of KASPER, pain management, addiction disorders, or a combination of two (2) or more of those subjects on or before December 31, 2017. The licensee may satisfy this requirement by completing a single approved program of one and one-half (1.5) hours or longer or by completing multiple approved programs for a total of one and one-half (1.5) hours or longer for that calendar year.

In addition, 201 KAR 9:310 stipulates that in order to lawfully prescribe or dispense controlled substances within the Commonwealth, a licensee shall complete the required number of continuing education hours for each period designated above. According to the regulation, failure to complete the required number of continuing education hours for the each designated period shall constitute a violation of KRS 311.595(9) and (12), which shall constitute an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, for the purposes of KRS 311.592 and 13B.125. If the Board determines that a licensee has failed to complete the required continuing education hours within the time specified or has failed to provide the written verification of completion within the time specified, the appropriate inquiry panel or its chair shall promptly issue an emergency order restricting that licensee from prescribing or dispensing controlled substances within Kentucky until the licensee has completed the required continuing education hours for that period and has provided written verification of completion.

A listing of available and approved CME courses is available on the Board's website, [www.kbml.ky.gov](http://www.kbml.ky.gov). A good of example of the available training is the program offered for free to physicians at the UK Healthcare CeCentral website, <http://www.cecentral.com/addictionky>. The Board has approved countless programs throughout the state and has appreciated all the efforts to adhere to this requirement.