



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF HEALTH LICENSURE AND REGULATION  
OFFICE OF HEALTH RELATED BOARDS  
665 Mainstream Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**  
(615) 532-5080 local or (800) 778-4123 toll free

Dear Doctor:

Effective July 1, 2014, all prescribers who hold a current federal drug enforcement administration (DEA) license must complete at least two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing every two (2) years, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 63-1-402.

The Board of Optometry (Board) is in the process of promulgating a new rule which will require *all* optometrist licensed in Tennessee, regardless of DEA licensure, to complete at least two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing every two (2) years.

The continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing shall include instruction regarding the department's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol. The course may include topics such as medicine addition, risk management tools, as well as other Board approved topics.

The department's treatment guidelines can be found at:  
<http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/ChronicPainGuidelines.pdf>

As of the writing of this letter, the Board has not approved additional topics. Should the Board decide to include additional topics, the Board will make those topics known to all licensees.

These two (2) hours of continuing education pertaining to a controlled substance prescribing course will count toward the Board's requirement of thirty (30) continuing education credits.

Pursuant Board rules, the Board must pre-approve courses designed to specifically address prescribing practices (Rule 1045-02-.05(c)).

Any licensee who renews their license on or after January 1, 2015 must complete at least two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing prior to renewing the license.

The Board will address a grace period for licensees at its regularly scheduled board meeting in Gatlinburg, TN on October 17, 2014.

Respectfully,

Yvette Hernandez  
Board Administrator