

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 19, 2016**  
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## Board reminds physicians of mandatory training on chronic pain management and end-of-life care

DES MOINES, IA – Primary care physicians who have held an active Iowa medical license for more than five years have until August 17, 2016, to complete mandatory continuing medical education (CME) on chronic pain management and end-of-life care.

With the deadline nearing in the first five-year cycle for this mandatory training, the Board of Medicine is reminding physicians licensed prior to August 17, 2011, that they will be asked to attest they have completed this training when they submit their application to renew their license. Primary care physicians licensed after August 17, 2011, must also complete the training on a five-year cycle.

The Board's administrative rules on CMEs require that primary care physicians must complete two hours of Category 1 training on chronic pain management and two hours of Category 1 training on end-of-life care every five years, effective August 17, 2011. This training applies to all physicians who regularly provide primary care to patients, including emergency room physicians, family physicians, general practice physicians, pediatricians, internists, neurologists, pain medicine specialists and psychiatrists.

The mandatory training was developed by the Board in 2011 as a step to protect the public by requiring a greater awareness and understanding among physicians about chronic pain management and end-of-life care. The Board believes this education will help stem the growing problem of addiction, abuse and diversion of pain management medications by patients. Correspondingly, pain management is an integral part of end-of-life care.

The mandatory education complements other Board rules that encourage physicians to use additional monitoring tools when prescribing pain medications.

The required pain management and end-of-life training can be applied toward a physician's mandatory completion of 40 hours of Category 1 CMEs every two years for license renewal.

For a list of training opportunities for chronic pain management and end-of-life care, click **here**.  
[http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov/licensure/chronicpain\\_endoflife.html](http://www.medicalboard.iowa.gov/licensure/chronicpain_endoflife.html)