

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to sickle cell disease care management
3 and treatment continuing education; amending s.
4 456.0301, F.S.; revising requirements for a continuing
5 education course on prescribing controlled substances;
6 creating s. 456.0311, F.S.; requiring a specified
7 continuing education course for the first licensure
8 and certification renewal for specified health care
9 professions; providing requirements for such course;
10 authorizing appropriate boards to adopt rules;
11 providing an effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 **Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**
16 **456.0301, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

17 456.0301 Requirement for instruction on controlled
18 substance prescribing.—

19 (1)(a) The appropriate board shall require each person
20 registered with the United States Drug Enforcement
21 Administration and authorized to prescribe controlled substances
22 pursuant to 21 U.S.C. s. 822 to complete a board-approved 2-hour
23 continuing education course on prescribing controlled substances
24 offered by a statewide professional association of physicians in
25 this state that is accredited to provide educational activities

designated for the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 Credit or the American Osteopathic Category 1-A continuing medical education credit as part of biennial license renewal. The course must include information on the current standards for prescribing controlled substances, particularly opiates; alternatives to these standards; nonpharmacological therapies; prescribing emergency opioid antagonists; ~~and~~ the risks of opioid addiction following all stages of treatment in the management of acute pain; and the treatment of pain for patients with sickle cell disease. The course may be offered in a distance learning format and must be included within the number of continuing education hours required by law. The department may not renew the license of any prescriber registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to prescribe controlled substances who has failed to complete the course. The course must be completed by January 31, 2019, and at each subsequent renewal. This paragraph does not apply to a licensee who is required by his or her applicable practice act to complete a minimum of 2 hours of continuing education on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances.

Section 2. Section 456.0311, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

456.0311 Requirements for instruction on sickle cell disease.—

51 (1) (a) The appropriate board shall require each person
52 licensed or certified under chapter 458, chapter 459, or part I
53 of chapter 464 to complete one 2-hour continuing education
54 course, approved by the board, on sickle cell disease care
55 management as part of the first licensure or certification
56 renewal. The course shall consist of education specific to
57 sickle cell disease and sickle cell traits, including, but not
58 limited to, evidence-based treatment protocols for patients of
59 all ages, continuing patient and family education, periodic
60 comprehensive evaluations and other disease-specific health
61 maintenance services, psychosocial care, genetic counseling, and
62 pain management.

63 (b) Each licensee or certificateholder shall submit
64 confirmation of having completed such course on a form provided
65 by the appropriate board when submitting fees for the first
66 renewal.

67 (c) The board may approve additional equivalent courses
68 that may be used to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a).
69 Each licensing board that requires a licensee to complete an
70 educational course pursuant to this section may include the hour
71 required for completion of the course in the total hours of
72 continuing education required by law for such profession unless
73 the continuing education requirements for such profession
74 consist of fewer than 30 hours biennially.

75 (d) Any person holding two or more licenses subject to the

76 provisions of this section may show proof of having taken one
77 board-approved course to satisfy the requirements of paragraph
78 (a) for purposes of relicensure or recertification for
79 additional licenses.

80 (e) Failure to comply with the requirements of this
81 section shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action under
82 each respective practice act and under s. 456.072(1)(k). In
83 addition to discipline by the appropriate board, the licensee
84 shall be required to complete the course required under this
85 section.

86 (2) Each appropriate board may adopt rules to implement
87 this section.

88 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.