

## CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR DEA REGISTRATION

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Rev. 4/10/23)

[Sec. 1263](#) of the spending bill Congress passed in December 2022 requires controlled substance prescribers to complete 8 hours of one-time training on safe controlled substance prescribing as a condition of receiving or renewing a DEA registration. The statutory language was taken from a separate bill, titled the Medication Access and Training Expansion Act (or MATE Act).

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## 1. Does this new DEA training requirement affect me?

Likely. The requirement applies to all DEA registration submissions (Schedules II, III, IV, and V)—regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration—beginning on or after June 27, 2023. The only exceptions are veterinarians and those who will not be obtaining or renewing a DEA registration.

## 2. What am I required to do?

At the time of your next scheduled DEA registration submission (but not before June 27, 2023), registrants must:

- Have completed eight hours of [qualified training](#) on safe controlled substance prescribing, with certificates of completion.
- Check a box on their registration submission affirming they have completed the training.
- Retain copies of all certificates of completion.

This applies regardless of whether a registrant is completing their initial registration application or renewing their registration. It also applies to all drug schedules (Schedules II, III, IV, and V).

Some important items to note:

- Certificates of completion are required, but formal continuing education credit is not.
- Qualified [coursework completed before the law's passage](#) is eligible.
- Qualified [coursework completed in dental school](#) is eligible for those less than five years out of dental school.

## 3. How much time do I have to comply?

Compliance is required by the time of your next scheduled DEA registration submission—regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration—but not before June 27, 2023. For example, if you renew on June 26, 2023, compliance is not required until your next renewal.

## 4. Does DEA plan to extend the compliance deadline(s)?

DEA is aware that prescribers and training providers may have difficulty complying with the new training requirement in the time Congress allowed. The agency is considering whether and how it can grant additional time within the scope of its statutory authority. Until a decision is announced, however, those subject to the requirement should be prepared to comply by the congressionally established timeline.

Note that compliance is not required until the time of your next scheduled DEA registration submission—regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration—but not before June 27, 2023.

## 5. Will I have to complete the eight hours of training on a cyclical basis?

No. Additional training is not required after the one-time, 8-hour requirement has been satisfied. [Sec. 1263](#) specifically states, “The Attorney General shall not require any qualified practitioner to complete the training...more than once.”

## 6. How will I know what courses will satisfy the requirement?

To qualify, the coursework must meet three criteria:

- The course must be an approved topic.
- The course must be conducted through an approved medium.
- The course must be delivered by a designated training provider.

First, the course must cover some aspect of the safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid and other substance use disorders. The subject matter is broadly defined.

Second, the training may take the form of classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications, or otherwise. The ADA is seeking clarification about whether reading a journal article for continuing education credit would count toward the requirement.

Finally, the course(s) must be delivered by a designated training provider. The ADA, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), and ADA CERP providers are designated training providers. Click [here](#) for the complete list.

Some important items to note:

- Certificates of completion are required, but formal continuing education credit is not.
- Qualified [coursework completed before the law's passage](#) is eligible.
- Qualified [coursework completed in dental school](#) is eligible for those less than five years out of dental school.

## 7. How will DEA enforce this requirement?

DEA has indicated it does not plan to audit or investigate prescribers based solely on compliance with this training requirement. However, the agency may check for certificates of completion when investigating a prescriber for some other infraction.

## 8. How do I demonstrate compliance?

Registrants will need to check a box on their DEA registration submission—regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration—affirming they have completed the required training.

Prescribers should retain copies of all certificates of completion. Recent graduates should contact their dental school for completion certificates. Recent graduates will also need to take supplemental training if their qualifying dental school courses total less than eight hours.

DEA currently has no plans to create a platform that will allow prescribers to upload and store certificates of completion.

## 9. Does the ADA offer eligible training on safe controlled substance prescribing?

Yes. Both the ADA and ADA CERP providers are among the [designated training organizations](#) that offer educational courses on the safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid and other substance use disorders.

The DEA appears to be relying on the law's designated training organizations to make good faith determinations about what courses will satisfy the new training requirement.

The following one-hour webinars are hosted by the ADA and include CE credit. All the courses are free for ADA members; some are free for non-members. The ADA is a designated training provider.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\***

Before taking new courses, note that past trainings from recognized groups can be used to satisfy requirement. In other words, if you received a relevant training from one of the recognized groups—prior to the enactment of this new training obligation on December 29, 2022—that training counts towards the eight-hour requirement.

DEA has confirmed there is no statute of limitations for past coursework to qualify.

Also note that relevant dental school coursework counts toward the federally required training for those who are less than five years out of dental school.

Course	Credit Type
<a href="#">Special Considerations of Pain Management and Opioid Use in Older Adults</a>	CE Credit (ADA CERP)
<a href="#">Emergency Department Referral Model in Action: Addressing Dental Access Opioid Prevention and Pain Management</a>	CE Credit (ADA CERP)
<a href="#">Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Acute Dental Pain</a>	CE Credit (ADA CERP)

The following one-hour ADA webinars are hosted by the ADA through the Providers Clinical Support System. The courses are free and include a certificate of completion. The ADA is an approved training provider.

Course	Credit Type
<a href="#">The Dental Hygienist's Role in Supporting Patients with Substance Use Disorder</a>	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
<a href="#">What You Need to Know About Pain Management as the Opioid Overdose Crisis Evolves</a>	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)

<i>Course</i>	<i>Credit Type</i>
<a href="#">Opioids, Dentistry and Addiction: The Dentist's Role in Treating Pain</a>	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
<a href="#">The Impact of COVID-19 on the Addiction Field: A Call to Dentists</a>	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)
<a href="#">Integrating Controlled Substance Risk Assessment and Management into Dental Practice</a>	Certificate of Completion (ADA/PCSS)

Again, the DEA appears to be relying on the law's designated training organizations to make good faith determinations about what courses will satisfy the new training requirement.

#### **10. Do recent dental school graduates have to complete this additional training?**

Likely. The requirement applies to all DEA registration submissions—regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration—beginning on or after June 27, 2023. If you do not intend to apply for a DEA registration, you are not affected.

Note that the law permits relevant dental school coursework to count toward the training requirement for those who are less than five years out of dental school. DEA has stated it is relying on dental schools to hand out certificates documenting completion of any qualifying coursework.

#### **11. Do the trainings have to be for continuing education credit?**

No. Certificates of completion are required, but formal continuing education credit is not.

#### **12. I have multiple DEA registrations. Do I have to complete eight hours of training for each one?**

No. The same eight hours of training can be recycled for multiple DEA registrations.

#### **13. Do I have to use specific training providers? Will ADA CERP credits count?**

Yes. The course(s) must be provided only by the organizations listed in the statute. The recognized organizations are:

- American Dental Association
- American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
- ADA CERP-recognized providers (i.e., any organization recognized by the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition, or CCEPR)

and/or

- American Society of Addiction Medicine
- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- American Medical Association
- American Osteopathic Association

- American Psychiatric Association
- Any organization accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
- Any organization accredited by a state medical society accreditor that is recognized by the ACCME or the CCEPR
- Any organization accredited by the American Osteopathic Association to provide continuing education
- Any organization approved by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the ACCME, or the CCEPR

If a state dental society is a recognized ADA CERP provider—or recognized by one of the other designated training providers—its courses should satisfy the requirement.

#### 14. Is my state dental society a recognized training provider?

Possibly. If your state dental society is a recognized ADA CERP provider—or recognized by one of the other [designated training providers](#)—its qualifying courses should satisfy the requirement.

#### 15. Will training completed prior to the law’s passage count toward the new requirement?

Yes. Past trainings from designated training organizations can count towards a practitioner meeting this requirement. In other words, if you received an [eligible training](#) from one of the [designated training organizations](#)—prior to the enactment of this new requirement on December 29, 2022—that training counts towards the eight-hour requirement. A certificate of completion is required.

There is no statute of limitations on past trainings being used to satisfy the requirement, except for relevant [training in dental school](#). Dental school training may only be used by those who are less than five years out of dental school.

#### 16. Does the eight hours of training have to occur in one session?

No. The training does not have to occur in one session. It can be cumulative across multiple sessions that equal eight hours of training.

#### 17. Do courses have to be taken in one-hour blocks?

No. There are no minimum time restrictions on individual courses. However, certificates of completion must be obtained.

#### 18. Will training credits accepted for state licensure count toward the new DEA requirement?

Yes. Training hours accepted for state licensure may be recycled to satisfy the DEA training requirement. [Sec. 1263](#) specifically states, “Nothing in this subsection shall be construed...to preclude the use...of training...to satisfy registration requirements of a State or for some other lawful purpose.”

### 19. Can my state impose additional training requirements?

Yes. The federal requirement is a floor, not ceiling. Your state may impose additional training requirements. [Sec. 1263](#) specifically states, “Nothing in this subsection shall be construed...to preempt any additional requirements by a State related to the dispensing of controlled substances under schedule II, III, IV, or V.”

### 20. Am I required to complete training on controlled substance topics that are outside of my scope of practice?

No. Dental prescribers are not required to complete coursework on controlled substance prescribing topics that are outside their scope of practice (e.g., medication-assisted treatment).

### 21. What is the ADA’s position on this new requirement?

In 2018, the ADA became the only major health professional organization to [support mandatory continuing education](#) on the safe prescribing of controlled substances. As a result, lawmakers viewed the ADA as an honest broker on the subject and made several accommodations to address some early concerns.

Unlike the original version, lawmakers:

- Removed requirements for dentists to complete coursework on topics outside their scope of practice (e.g., prescribing buprenorphine).
- Allowed state-required training to count toward the new federal training requirement.
- Allowed dental school courses to count toward the federally required training for those less than five years out of dental school.
- Permitted training offered by ADA CERP training providers to count toward the federal training requirement.

### 22. Where can I find additional information?

Dentists and dental professionals may email the Member Service Center at [msc@ada.org](mailto:msc@ada.org), or call 312-440-2500. Staff are available 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Central Time.

For official answers from the DEA, please email your questions to the Diversion Control Division Policy Section at [ODLP@dea.gov](mailto:ODLP@dea.gov), or call 571-362-3260. The website is [deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://deadiversion.usdoj.gov).

Additional information is available on [ADA.org](http://ADA.org).



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## DEA Registered-Practitioners

Dear Registrants:

On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 enacted a new **one-time**, eight-hour training requirement for all Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-registered practitioners on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders. Below is information on this new requirement.

### **Who is responsible for satisfying this new training requirement?**

- All DEA-registered practitioners, with the exception of practitioners that are solely veterinarians.

### **How will practitioners be asked to report satisfying this new training requirement?**

- Beginning on June 27, 2023, practitioners will be required to check a box on their online DEA registration form—regardless of whether a registrant is completing their initial registration application or renewing their registration—affirming that they have completed the new training requirement.

### **What is the deadline for satisfying this new training requirement?**

- The deadline for satisfying this new training requirement is the date of a prescriber's next scheduled DEA registration submission—regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration—on or after June 27, 2023.
- This one-time training requirement affirmation will not be a part of future registration renewals.

### **How can practitioners satisfy this new training requirement?**

There are multiple ways that practitioners can satisfy this new training requirement.

- First, the following groups of practitioners are deemed to have satisfied this training:
  1. **Group 1:** All practitioners that are board certified in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry from the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Board of Addiction Medicine, or the American Osteopathic Association.
  2. **Group 2:** All practitioners that graduated in good standing from a medical (allopathic or osteopathic), dental, physical assistant, or advanced practice nursing school within five years of June 27, 2023, and successfully completed a comprehensive curriculum that included at least eight hours of training on:



- Treating and managing patients with opioid or other substance use disorders, including the appropriate clinical use of all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a substance use disorder; or
  - Safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid and other substance use disorders.
- Second, practitioners can satisfy this training by engaging in a total of eight hours of training on treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders from the groups listed below. A few key points related to this training:
    1. The training does not have to occur in one session. It can be cumulative across multiple sessions that equal eight hours of training.
    2. Past trainings on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders can count towards a practitioner meeting this requirement. In other words, if you received a relevant training from one of the groups listed below—prior to the enactment of this new training obligation on December 29, 2022—that training counts towards the eight-hour requirement.
    3. Past DATA-Waived trainings count towards a DEA registrant’s 8-hour training requirement.
    4. Trainings can occur in a variety of formats, including classroom settings, seminars at professional society meetings, or virtual offerings.

### **What accredited groups may provide trainings that meet this new requirement?**

- The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)
- The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or any organizations accredited by the AOA to provide continuing medical education
- The American Dental Association (ADA)
- The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)
- The American Psychiatric Association (APA)
- The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- The American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)
- The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- Any other organization accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (AACCME) or the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR), whether directly or through an organization accredited by a State medical society that is recognized by the ACCME or CCEPR
- Any other organization approved or accredited by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the ACCME, or the CCEPR

We hope this information is helpful. For information regarding the DEA Diversion Control Division, please visit [www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov). If you have any additional questions on this issue, please contact the Diversion Control Division Policy Section at (571) 362-3260.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Prevoznik  
Acting Assistant Administrator  
Diversion Control Division

**SEC. 1263. REQUIRING PRESCRIBERS OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TO COMPLETE TRAINING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) REQUIRED TRAINING FOR PRESCRIBERS.—

“(1) TRAINING REQUIRED.—As a condition on registration under this section to dispense controlled substances in schedule II, III, IV, or V, the Attorney General shall require any qualified practitioner, beginning with the first applicable registration for the practitioner, to meet the following:

“(A) If the practitioner is a physician (as defined under section 1861(r) of the Social Security Act) and the practitioner meets one or more of the following conditions:

“(i) The physician holds a board certification in addiction psychiatry or addiction medicine from the American Board of Medical Specialties.

“(ii) The physician holds a board certification from the American Board of Addiction Medicine.

“(iii) The physician holds a board certification in addiction medicine from the American Osteopathic Association.

“(iv) The physician has, with respect to the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders, or the safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid or other substance use disorders, completed not less than 8 hours of training (through classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications, or otherwise) that is provided by—

“(I) the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Dental Association, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, the American Psychiatric Association, or any other organization accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR);

“(II) any organization accredited by a State medical society accreditor that is recognized by the ACCME or the CCEPR;

“(III) any organization accredited by the American Osteopathic Association to provide continuing medical education; or

“(IV) any organization approved by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the ACCME, or the CCEPR.

“(v) The physician graduated in good standing from an accredited school of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dental surgery, or dental medicine in the United States during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date on which the physician first registers or renews under this section and has successfully

completed a comprehensive allopathic or osteopathic medicine curriculum or accredited medical residency or dental surgery or dental medicine curriculum that included not less than 8 hours of training on—

“(I) treating and managing patients with opioid or other substance use disorders, including the appropriate clinical use of all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a substance use disorder; or

“(II) the safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid and other substance use disorders.

“(B) If the practitioner is not a physician (as defined under section 1861(r) of the Social Security Act), the practitioner is legally authorized by the State to dispense controlled substances under schedule II, III, IV, or V and is dispensing such substances within such State in accordance with all applicable State laws, and the practitioner meets one or more of the following conditions:

“(i) The practitioner has completed not fewer than 8 hours of training with respect to the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders (through classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications, or otherwise) provided by the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Physician Associates, or any other organization approved or accredited by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

“(ii) The practitioner has graduated in good standing from an accredited physician assistant school or accredited school of advanced practice nursing in the United States during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date on which the practitioner first registers or renews under this section and has successfully completed a comprehensive physician assistant or advanced practice nursing curriculum that included not fewer than 8 hours of training on treating and managing patients with opioid and other substance use disorders, including the appropriate clinical use of all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a substance use disorder.

“(2) ONE-TIME TRAINING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall not require any qualified practitioner to complete the training described in clause (iv) or (v) of paragraph (1)(A) or clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(B) more than once.

“(B) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Restoring Hope for Mental

Health and Well-Being Act of 2022, the Attorney General shall provide to qualified practitioners a single written, electronic notification of the training described in clauses (iv) and (v) of paragraph (1)(A) or clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (1)(B).

“(3) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

“(A) to preclude the use, by a qualified practitioner, of training received pursuant to this subsection to satisfy registration requirements of a State or for some other lawful purpose; or

“(B) to preempt any additional requirements by a State related to the dispensing of controlled substances under schedule II, III, IV, or V.

“(4) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(A) **FIRST APPLICABLE REGISTRATION.**—The term ‘first applicable registration’ means the first registration or renewal of registration by a qualified practitioner under this section that occurs on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022.

“(B) **QUALIFIED PRACTITIONER.**—In this subsection, the term ‘qualified practitioner’ means a practitioner who—

“(i) is licensed under State law to prescribe controlled substances; and

“(ii) is not solely a veterinarian.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report assessing the impact of the elimination of the waiver program established under section 303(g)(2) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2)), as amended by the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000.

**SEC. 1264. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DAYS BEFORE WHICH CERTAIN CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MUST BE ADMINISTERED.**

Section 309A(a)(5) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 829a(a)(5)) is amended by striking “14 days” and inserting “45 days”.