



Opioid FAQs for Veterinarians

What is the opioid CE requirement for license renewal?

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners requires that the number of credits of continuing veterinary education required of each person licensed as a veterinarian, as a condition of biennial license renewal, include at least **one credit** of educational programs or topics concerning prescription opioid drugs, including the risks and signs of opioid abuse, addiction, and diversion.

[\(N.J.A.C. 45:16-9.4c. Continuing veterinary education\)](#)

What information should be included when writing a prescription for opioids?

The following information should be recorded on each prescription provided to owners to treat their animals:

- 1) The name of the animal, (its species), and the owner's last name
- 2) The animal's date of birth (if unknown, list January 1 of the estimated year of birth)
- 3) The owner's name
- 4) The owner's address

By including owner information on pet prescriptions, physicians doing look-ups on the [NJMPMP](#) can see what kind of medications patients have been obtaining in their pet's name as well as their own.

How do I report suspected opioid abuse?

Veterinarians are encouraged to access the NJPMP's Suspicious Activity Report ("SAR") to report individuals they suspect may be seeking CDS for misuse, abuse, or diversion. The [Suspicious Activity Report \("SAR"\) portal](#) available to health practitioners and members of the public on the NJPMP website, permits users to quickly alert authorities about when they believe doctors are overprescribing controlled medications; individuals or pharmacists are filling forged or stolen prescriptions, or patients are "doctor shopping" to obtain multiple prescriptions. Information contained in the reports will be investigated for possible administrative or criminal enforcement action.

Where can I find an online course that meets the CE requirement?

The eLearning course, *The Prescription and Use of Opioids in Small Animal Patients*, available to NJVMA members at a discounted price. This webinar includes an updated review of opioid pharmacology, use in anesthetic protocols and pain management. Legal issues around opioid use and alternatives to opioids within the contexts of small animal use are also presented. This course has been RACE approved for 1.50 CE for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians and meets the opioid CE requirement for veterinarian biennial license renewal. Click [here](#) to register.

NJ CARES, in partnership with Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine, is now offering a series of one-hour courses for healthcare professionals providing standardized, evidence-based education on the Role of Pharmacists in Addressing New Jersey's Opioid Crisis and Using the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJ PMP), and professional judgment to halt abuse and diversion; counseling patients on the proper use/disposal of opioids. The cost of each course is \$7. Please note, because the course is designed for human healthcare providers there will be some information that does not apply to veterinarians. For example, veterinarians are not currently required to use the NJPMP.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Where can I learn more?

More information can be found in the press release [New Jersey Attorney General and Division of Consumer Affairs Announce Stricter Guidelines for Veterinary Prescriptions to Prevent Pet Pain Medications from Being Used to Feed Opioid Addictions.](#)