



Florida PAs,

The Florida Academy of Physician Assistants would like to remind all Florida PAs that:

All prescribing Physician Assistants in Florida are required to complete the state mandated 3-hour controlled substance course on “The safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances” **by January 31, 2020**. Since all Physician Assistants renew Florida Licensure on EVEN years, the controlled substance course is not required, per mandate, until 2020.

Per current Florida Legislative statutes 458.347:

4.e.3. ¹The physician assistant must complete a minimum of 10 continuing medical education hours in the specialty practice in which the physician assistant has prescriptive privileges with each licensure renewal. Three of the 10 hours must consist of a continuing education course on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substance medications which is offered by a statewide professional association of physicians in this state accredited to provide educational activities designated for the American Medical Association Physician’s Recognition Award Category 1 credit or designated by the American Academy of Physician Assistants as a Category 1 credit.

Please share this letter to any regulatory or credentialing offices that may be requesting completion of the course sooner than Florida statute stipulates. The confusion relates to the fact that Physicians are required to complete a 2-hour course on “The safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances” by January 31, 2019. The Physician statute and PA statute mandates are different.

Note: FAPA will again be partnering with PPACE, Physicians for PA Continuing Education, on a newly updated controlled substance course that meets the requirements of Florida statute. The course will launch next month, February 2019. FAPA members will be offered the best available course rate.

Respectfully,

Mike Nuccio, MPAS, PA-C
FAPA President