Dear Colleague:

New York State requires every prescriber, who has a DEA license, to take a three (3) hour continuing medical education (CME) program in Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction medicine by July 1, 2017 and every three years after that.

The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) has developed an online program that meets New York State’s coursework requirements. The online course is now available at https://cme.mssny.org

The MSSNY course includes the eight (8) statutory topics:

- New York State and federal requirements for prescribing controlled substances
- Pain Management
- Appropriate prescribing
- Managing acute pain
- Palliative medicine
- Prevention, screening and signs of addiction
- Responses to abuse and addiction
- End of life care

MSSNY’s CME program was developed in conjunction with the NYS Office for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Service. The NYS Department of Health’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement lists the Medical Society of the State of New York as an accredited provider for this coursework.

In 2014, the American Medical Association, MSSNY and more than 25 states, specialty and other health care associations joined together to create a task force to help reduce the nation’s burden from prescription opioids and heroin. We believe that a comprehensive public health approach is needed to address prescription opioid-related harm and the growing heroin epidemic. This is an issue of high importance to the profession. This interest is reflected by the fact that nearly every state has considered—and enacted—multiple pieces of legislation to address this problem.

More than 16,000 patients annually suffer an unintentional overdose and death from opioid analgesics, and more than 8,000 deaths occur annually from heroin overdoses. MSSNY’s course discusses the safe and effective prescribing practices; approaches to treating pain, ways to respond to abuse and treatment and how to prevent, screen and recognize the signs of addiction.

We urge you to take the MSSNY 3 Hour CME program on Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction and join your colleagues in helping to combat the opioid epidemic.

Sincerely,

Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA
Chair, AMA Board of Trustees

Malcolm Reid, MD, MPP
MSSNY President

Chair, AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse