



Important Changes to Mandated CME/CE for Physician Licensure and Renewal

QUICK REFERENCE TABLE: TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD MANDATED CME

REQUIREMENT	FREQUENCY	# CME HOURS	CONTENT AREA	SPECIAL NOTES
Total CME	Biennial (2yr)	48	General plus approved activities	24 hours <i>Category 1</i> required, and 24 hours any format
Physicians Need to Externally Track CME	Biennial, effective Sept. 1, 2026	48	Mandatory tracking of CME credits in CE Broker App	CE Broker FAQ
Ethics/Professional Responsibility	Biennial	2	Ethics and professional responsibility	Must be <i>Category 1</i>
Human Trafficking Prevention CME (<i>direct care</i>) (<i>first license renewal on or after Sep. 1, 2023</i>)	1st renewal, potentially every 3rd renewal	1	Identification and assistance of trafficked persons	One hour during first renewal period. One hour every 3rd renewal period after 1st renewal period if > one course approved by TMB
Pain Management and Opioid Prescribing CME (<i>direct care</i>) (<i>first license renewal on or after Jan. 1, 2021</i>)	1st/2nd renewal	2 per renewal	Prescribing of opioids and other controlled substances	Two hours every 8 years after 1st/2nd renewal period
Nutrition and Metabolic Health CME (<i>All licensed physicians</i>) (<i>license renewal on or after Jan. 1, 2027</i>)	Biennial	TBD	Nutrition and metabolic health	Hours to be determined by TMB rules
Life of the Mother Act CE (<i>Applicable to 12 medical specialties including family medicine; emergency medicine; critical care medicine-OB-gyn; maternal-fetal medicine; obstetrics/gynecology; and some combined specialties, regardless whether the physician currently provides obstetrical care.</i>) (<i>initial license or renewal after Jan. 1, 2026</i>)	Once	Not Specified	Laws relating to pregnancy-related medical emergencies	TMB-approved course. One-time requirement for 12 medical specialties determined by TMB likely to encounter pregnancy-related emergencies.
Forensic Evidence CME (<i>emergency room settings</i>) (<i>renewal on or after Sep. 1, 2026</i>)	Biennial	2	Forensic evidence collection	Now mandatory for physicians in emergency room settings
Tick-Borne Diseases CME	Biennial	Not specified	Treatment of tick-borne diseases	Not required but encouraged; can be a factor in disciplinary cases.

MDs and DOs must complete 48 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) every two years (biennially). At least 24 of those hours must be formal Category 1 courses and two must count as ethics credit.

TOTAL CME

To renew a medical license with the Texas Medical Board (TMB), MDs and DOs must complete **48 hours** of Continuing Medical Education (CME) every two years (biennially). At least **24 of those hours must be in formal Category 1** courses and two must count as **Ethics credit**.

[TMB CME Requirements](#)

DETAILED CME MANDATES AND UPCOMING IMPORTANT CHANGES

In addition to the core 48-hour requirement, there are mandatory hours for specific topics. Physicians should always verify all requirements with TMB before renewal to ensure compliance with any updates.

[TMB Occupation Code & Board Rules](#)

NEW! PHYSICIAN CME TRACKING AND COMPLIANCE

- Physicians must register CME credits through a TMB approved tracking system - **CE Broker** to meet this requirement.
- A new law directs the TMB to establish a **CME tracking system** for use by physicians by **September 1, 2026**. The TMB is required to use this system to verify compliance before renewing a physician's license and for conducting CME audits.
- For license renewal on or after Sept. 1, 2026, physicians will be required to
 - Have an active, basic CE Broker account by Sept. 1, 2026
 - Report all completed CE coursework in CE Broker

Special CME Mandates

- Ethics/Professional Responsibility:** At least **two hours** in formal CME must focus on medical ethics or professional responsibility. These hours must be Category 1.
- Human Trafficking Prevention CME:** Physicians engaged in **direct patient care** whose first license renewal falls on or after Sept. 1, 2023, must take **one hour** on the identification and assistance of trafficked persons during the first renewal period after initial licensing. After that, if more than one approved course exists, one hour must be completed every third renewal period (or every six years). [Tex. Occ. Code § 156.060 \(2024\)](#)
- Pain Management and Opioid Prescribing CME:** Physicians with **direct care** practices whose first license renewal falls on or after Jan. 1, 2021, must complete **four hours of CME** on opioid prescribing in each of the first two renewal periods after initial licensure. Following this, **two hours** of opioid CME is required **every eight years** (or every four license renewal periods) thereafter. [Tex. Occ. Code § 156.055 \(2024\)](#)

Continuing medical education regarding safe and effective pain management related to the prescription of opioids and other controlled substances, including education regarding:

- reasonable standards of care;
- the identification of drug-seeking behavior in patients;
- effectively communicating with patients regarding the prescription of an opioid or other controlled substance; and
- prescribing and monitoring of controlled substances.

- Tick-Borne Disease CME:** Physicians whose practice includes the treatment of tick-borne diseases are encouraged to include continuing medical education in the treatment of tick-borne diseases among the hours of continuing medical education completed.

[Tex. Occ. Code § 156.059](#)

NEW: OBSTETRICS CARE CE (Effective Jan. 1, 2026)

- Physicians who will provide obstetrical care must complete a TMB-approved CE course regarding the laws related to pregnancy-related medical emergencies.
- This is a **one-time requirement** for both initial licensure after Jan. 1, 2026, and for physicians renewing a license after that date.
- The TMB has made at least one such CE course available at **no cost** to licensed physicians beginning Jan. 1, 2026.
- The course must address:
 - What does and does not constitute an abortion, including exclusions for ectopic pregnancy and spontaneous abortion.
 - The laws prohibiting abortion and any prohibited procedures.
 - Statutory exceptions to laws prohibiting abortion, with an emphasis on exceptions based on a **medical emergency**.
 - Laws regarding **reasonable medical judgment** in connection with medical emergency exceptions to laws prohibiting abortions. [SB00031F.docx](#)

FORENSIC EVIDENCE CME (Effective Sep. 1, 2026)

[Tex. Occ. Code § 156.057](#)

- New legislation changes what was voluntary training into a **mandatory CME** for physicians who practice in **emergency room settings**.
- The CME is to be at least **two hours** and include content on trauma-informed care to sexual assault survivors, appropriate community referrals and prophylactic medications, sexual assault survivor rights, forensic evidence collection methods, and applicable state law regarding custody, transfer, and tracking of evidence.
- The TMB is directed to adopt rules to establish the CME content related to forensic evidence collection by **June 1, 2026**.

NEW: NUTRITION AND METABOLIC HEALTH CME (Effective Jan. 1, 2027)

[Tex. Occ. Code § 156.061](#)

- Senate Bill 25 (2025) will require physicians to complete CME in **nutrition and metabolic health** for license renewal.
- The TMB is expected to finalize rules by **December 31, 2026**, which will set the number of hours required. Specific details are currently pending.

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