



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Position/Policy Statement

Requiring Prescriber Education as part of the Drug Enforcement Administration Controlled Substances Act Registration

The National Safety Council recognizes that substance abuse is a serious and life-threatening epidemic in the United States. There were 43,982 drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2013; more than half (22,767) were related to prescription drugs.

The National Safety Council recommends that the Drug Enforcement Administration require continuing medical education (CME) for prescribers who register with them under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. If possible, the CME should be pertinent to the classes of controlled substances prescribed by the provider. The proposed CME should include the following topics:

- Relative efficacy and risks of medications used to treat acute and chronic pain
- Responsible prescribing, including the use of tools such as state prescription drug monitoring programs
- Linkage to treatment for those with addiction

This position statement reflects the opinions of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.

Adopted by the National Safety Council, October, 2015

