

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can I register for 2026 N. C. Dental Opioid Course online?**

Yes! In 2026, the N. C. Dental Opioid Course will be taught via Live Zoom or On-Demand. You can register with a credit card for either on your smart phone, tablet, or computer quickly and securely.

- **What are the dates for the 2026 N. C. Dental Opioid Course?**

You will find the dates for our 2026 N. C. Dental Opioid Course on our website: ncdentalopioidcourse.com. We are presenting the course either via a scheduled Live Zoom or On-Demand for your convenience. Please join us for an informative night of education and interaction.

- **Do I have to take an Opioid Course each year?**

Yes (If you have a current DEA certificate to prescribe). The STOP Act, which requires a dentist to take at least one hour of continuing education in opioids and prescription writing each year for dental license renewal, is a N. C. Legislature requirement and was not instigated by our N. C. State Board of Dental Examiners.

- **The NC Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOP) Act of 2017**

Targets Schedule II and III opioids and narcotics (e.g., tramadol, oxycodone) to curb abuse. Key mandates include mandatory Controlled Substances Reporting System (CSRS) checks every 3 months, electronic prescribing, and limits on acute pain prescriptions (5 days for acute, 7 for post-operative).

Key Aspects of the NC STOP Act on Targeted Controlled Substances:

- **Definition:** "Targeted controlled substances" are primarily Schedule II and III opioid/narcotic medications. They do not include benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or stimulants.
- **Mandatory CSRS Review:** Prescribers must check the state's CSRS (controlled substance reporting system) before prescribing a targeted controlled substance and at least every 3 months thereafter for continuing treatment.

- **Electronic Prescribing:** As of Jan 1, 2020, most targeted controlled substances must be ordered via e-prescribing, with limited exceptions (e.g., for technical failure, certain facility, or pharmacy dispensing).
- **Supply Limits:** Initial prescriptions for acute pain are limited to a 5-day supply, or 7 days for post-operative acute pain.
- **PA/NP Consultation:** Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners must consult with their supervising physician if prescribing a targeted controlled substance for >30 days or in specific pain management settings.
- **Pharmacy Reporting:** Pharmacies must report dispensed controlled substances to the CSRS within 24 hours (or the next business day). The act aims to reduce "doctor shopping" and limit the initial exposure to addictive pain medications.
- Do I have to send a copy of the CE Certificate I receive at this course each year to the N. C. State Board of Dental Examiners?
No, unless you are audited for CE by the N. C. State Board of Dental Examiners. At the completion of the opioid lecture, **you will be able to print your CE certificate (Verification of Attendance) from the email you will receive after the course.** Save it in case you are audited by the N. C. State Board of Dental Examiners as proof of course attendance.
- How do I get in touch with the 2026 N. C. Dental Opioid Update Course?

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