

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 2581
 AUTHOR: Maienschien
 BILL DATE: February 14, 2024, Introduced
 SUBJECT: Healing Arts: Continuing Education: Maternal Mental Health
 SPONSOR: Author

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Encourages various health professionals, including physicians and surgeons, to take continuing education on the topic of maternal mental and physical health to satisfy their continuing education requirements.

BACKGROUND

Continuing medical education (CME) is intended to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance that a physician and surgeon uses to provide care, or to improve the quality of care provided to their patients. The Medical Practice Act (see [Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) 2190.1](#)) provides the Board broad authority to establish CME standards and requirements, including mandating CME on certain topics. Statute also includes various general CME requirements, including, but not limited to cultural and linguistic competency and implicit bias.

Additionally, statute establishes the following topical CME requirements:

- All general internists and family physicians who have a patient population of which over 25 percent are 65 years of age or older shall complete at least 20 percent (i.e., 10 hours) of all mandatory CME hours during each two-year renewal cycle in the fields of geriatric medicine or the care of older patients¹.
- All physicians and surgeons shall complete CME on a one-time basis in the amount of 12 credit hours² on either of the following topics:
 - Pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients.
 - Treatment and management of opiate-dependent patients, which includes eight hours of training in buprenorphine, or similar medicinal, treatment for opioid use disorders.

[BPC section 2196.6](#) encourages the Board to consider requiring a course in maternal mental health. Via regulation, the Board requires a physician and surgeon to complete

¹ See [BPC section 2190.3](#)

² See [BPC section 2190.5](#) and [BPC section 2190.6](#)

not less than 50 hours of approved CME during each two-year period prior to renewing their license.

ANALYSIS

Per the author’s fact sheet:

“According to the American Hospital Association, over 50% of pregnant individuals suffering from depression go untreated, significantly impacting both parent and child. In 2019, maternal mental health conditions emerged as the leading cause of pregnancy related deaths. Empowering all perinatal nurses and providers with training in maternal mental health equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to support their patients effectively. It is imperative that all healthcare professionals, across disciplines, understand the factors influencing women's overall health and proactively identify and address potential pregnancy risks.”

Other than the above-described requirements in the background section of this analysis, a physician and surgeon may exercise discretion to choose the CME most appropriate to their patients and medical practice.

As currently drafted, this bill will not change CME requirements. Staff are in contact with the author’s office and will report back to the Board at the May 23-24, 2024, Board meeting on any amendments.

FISCAL: None identified.

SUPPORT: None identified.

OPPOSITION: None identified.

POSITION: Recommendation: No action at this time.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 2581, Maienschein – Healing Arts: Continuing Education: Maternal Mental Health](#)
Version: 2/14/24 – Introduced