



September 17, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 359 (Cooper) Physicians and surgeons: licensure: examination – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I respectfully request your signature on AB 359 (Cooper), which would authorize a physician and surgeon licensed in another state, who did not obtain a passing score on all parts of Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) within four attempts, to be eligible for licensure in California and update the types of educational activities available to meet continuing medical education (CME) requirements.

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the American Medical Association (AMA) and California's Business and Professions Code 2190.1 define CME as consisting of "educational activities which serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession."

ACCME and other states allow the definition for CME activities to include practice management content, as these topics assist physicians in carrying out their professional responsibilities more effectively and efficiently.

Current California law prohibits CME from including educational activities that include medical office management, billing and coding, etc. AB 359 specifically adds educational activities that "promote recommendations, treatments or manners of practicing medicine," such as the following, as acceptable CME content:

- Practice management content designed to provide better service to patients, including, but not limited to, the use of technology or clinical office workflow
- Management content designed to support managing a health care facility, including, but not limited to, coding or reimbursement in a medical practice
- Support educational methodology for physicians and surgeons teaching in a medical school

As such, topics that would qualify for CME include:

- Clinical workflows to improve patient practices
- Use of technology including telehealth to increase access to care for underserved communities
- Coding and reimbursement in a medical practice to increase awareness of new health management tools (i.e., adverse childhood event screenings, etc.)
- Practice management and clinical staff management (i.e., learning to use software to manage patient flow and communicate with staff, learning best practices for clinic staffing, dealing with patient/staff issues)
- Management and leadership for physicians responsible for managing a health care facility

For these reasons, the California State Association of Psychiatrists is pleased to support AB 359 (Copper) and respectfully requests your signature on this measure.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Yoder  
Legislative Advocate

CC: Assemblymember Jim Cooper