

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 845
AUTHOR: Maienschein
BILL DATE: April 1, 2019, Amended
SUBJECT: Continuing Education: Physicians and Surgeons:
Maternal Mental Health
SPONSOR: Maternal Mental Health NOW
POSITION: Neutral

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION:

This bill would allow for an optional continuing medical education (CME) course in maternal mental health.

BACKGROUND:

Existing law requires physicians and surgeons to complete at least 50 hours of approved CME during each two-year license renewal cycle. Currently, physicians and surgeons only have a mandatory one-time CME requirement of 12 hours in the subject of pain management and the treatment of the terminally ill or on the subject of the treatment and management of opiate-dependent patients. There is also a mandate in existing law that requires general internists and family physicians who have a patient population of which over 25 percent are 65 years of age or older to complete at least 20 percent of all mandatory CME in a course in the field of geriatric medicine or the care of older patients.

Existing CME courses approved by the Medical Board of California's (Board) Licensing Program include:

- Programs accredited by the Institute for Medical Quality/California Medical Association (IMQ/CMA), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) that qualify for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s);
- Programs that qualify for prescribed credit from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP); and
- Other programs offered by other organizations and institutions acceptable to the Board.

ANALYSIS:

This bill would require the Board, when determining CME requirements, to consider including a course in maternal mental health, which must address the following:

- Best practices in screening for maternal mental health disorders, including cultural competency and unintended bias as a means to build trust with mothers.

- The range of maternal mental health disorders.
- The range of evidence-based treatment options, including the importance of allowing a mother to be involved in developing the treatment plan.
- When an obstetrician or a primary care doctor should consult with a psychiatrist versus making a referral.
- Applicable requirements under Sections 123640 and 123616.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

Although the Board has historically opposed mandated CME, this bill would not mandate particular CME for physicians. This bill only requires the Board to consider a course on maternal mental health. If the Board decides that it is important to get out information to physicians on this particular type of CME to encourage attendance in these types of CME courses, it could include an article in its Newsletter or put information out on the Board's website. The Board has taken a neutral position on this bill.

FISCAL: None

SUPPORT: Maternal Mental Health NOW (Sponsor)

OPPOSITION: None on file