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for Continuing Medical Education

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Opioid REMS-Compliant Accredited CE Activities Reported to ACCME

2020 Update

This report describes the scope and diversity of accredited continuing education (CE) activities that are compliant with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) related to opioid analgesics. We published the first report in September 2014; the subsequent reports, published annually, reflect cumulative data. This report reflects data available as of August 15, 2020.

Background

The first FDA REMS to incorporate accredited CE was the Extended-Release and Long-Acting (ER/LA) Opioid Analgesics REMS, approved by the FDA in July 2012. In 2018, the FDA issued the Opioid Analgesic REMS (OA REMS), which expanded the program to include immediate release opioids, as well as broader information about appropriate pain management and alternatives to opioids.

To support the CE community and the FDA, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) modified the [Program and Activity Reporting System \(PARS\)](#) to enable accredited CE providers to submit information about REMS-compliant CE activities. The PARS data collection system was created in compliance with the MedBiquitous MEMS 2.0 Standard and Activity Reports 1.54 to ensure interchangeability and accuracy of the data.

Accredited CE providers choose to report this data as part of the terms and conditions of their commercial support agreement with the REMS Program Companies (RPC), the consortium of opioid manufacturers that are responsible for fulfilling the OA REMS. The ACCME aggregates the data and produces these reports as a service to the accredited CE community and other stakeholders. For more information, visit [CME for FDA REMS](#).

ER/LA Opioid Analgesic REMS-Compliant Accredited CE Activities Reported in PARS

The ER/LA Opioid Analgesic REMS program is being phased out as a result of its evolution into the new OA REMS program. Since our last published update, CE providers have not reported new activities under the ER/LA Opioid Analgesic REMS. Activities that were reported previously continue to be available, and information about the learners who participated in those activities is cumulative through August 15, 2020. During the tenure of the program, nearly 500,000 learners participated in approximately 1,000 REMS-compliant activities offered by more than 100 accredited CE providers.

From July 2012 through August 2020, 108 accredited providers reported 944 ER/LA Opioid Analgesic REMS-compliant CE activities. Of the 944 activities, 905 were funded by the RPC. Table 1 includes data from activities that were and were not funded by the RPC.

CE Provider Type	Providers	Activities	Learners	FDA-defined Prescribers*
Hospital/healthcare delivery system	50	87	4,029	1,520
Insurance company/managed-care company	1	2	47	11
Nonprofit (other)	6	40	5,989	2,967
Nonprofit (physician membership organization)	29	307	93,380	25,629
Not classified	2	10	628	128
Publishing/education company	8	178	181,784	53,489
School of medicine	12	320	165,295	35,788
Totals	108	944	451,152	119,532

**The FDA defines prescribers as clinicians who have written at least one prescription for an ER/LA Opioid Analgesic in the last 12 months.*

Table 1. CE providers, activities, participants, and FDA-defined prescribers by CE provider type. This includes activities that have already been held or are currently available.

Opioid Analgesic REMS-Compliant Accredited CE Activities Reported in PARS

From March 1, 2020 through August 15, 2020, 24 accredited providers reported 213 OA REMS-compliant CE activities. Of those, 166 activities had been held or released, and 44 were planned for the future. For those activities that had been held or released, accredited providers reported 111,358 learners.

	Providers	Activities	Learners
Current or past	23	166	111,358
Future	5	44	N/A
Total	24	213	111,358

Table 2. Number of accredited CE providers offering OA REMS-compliant CE activities. This includes all activities that have already been held, are currently available, or planned for the future.

These 213 activities were offered in a variety of formats; the most common format was live courses (Table 2).

Activity Type	Count	Activity Subtype(s)*						
		Panel	Lecture	Small-group discussion	Case-based discussion	Simulation	Skill-based training	Other
Live – course	95	0	36	5	18	0	4	8
Live – Internet course	43	0	3	1	4	0	1	0
Live – regularly scheduled series	1							
Total Live Activities	139	0	39	6	22	0	5	8
Enduring material – Internet	70							
Enduring material – other	4							
Total Enduring Material Activities	74							
Grand Total	213	0	39	6	22	0	5	8

**Providers of live courses and live Internet courses may report the sub-type(s) of the activity. They may report more than one sub-type for each activity or choose to not report any, therefore the total number of sub-types is not expected to equal the total number of activities.*

Table 3. OA REMS-compliant CE activities, by activity type and sub-type. This includes all activities that have already been held, are currently available, or planned for the future.

While the majority of activities were live courses, the majority of learners participated in activities offered as Internet enduring materials (Figure 1).

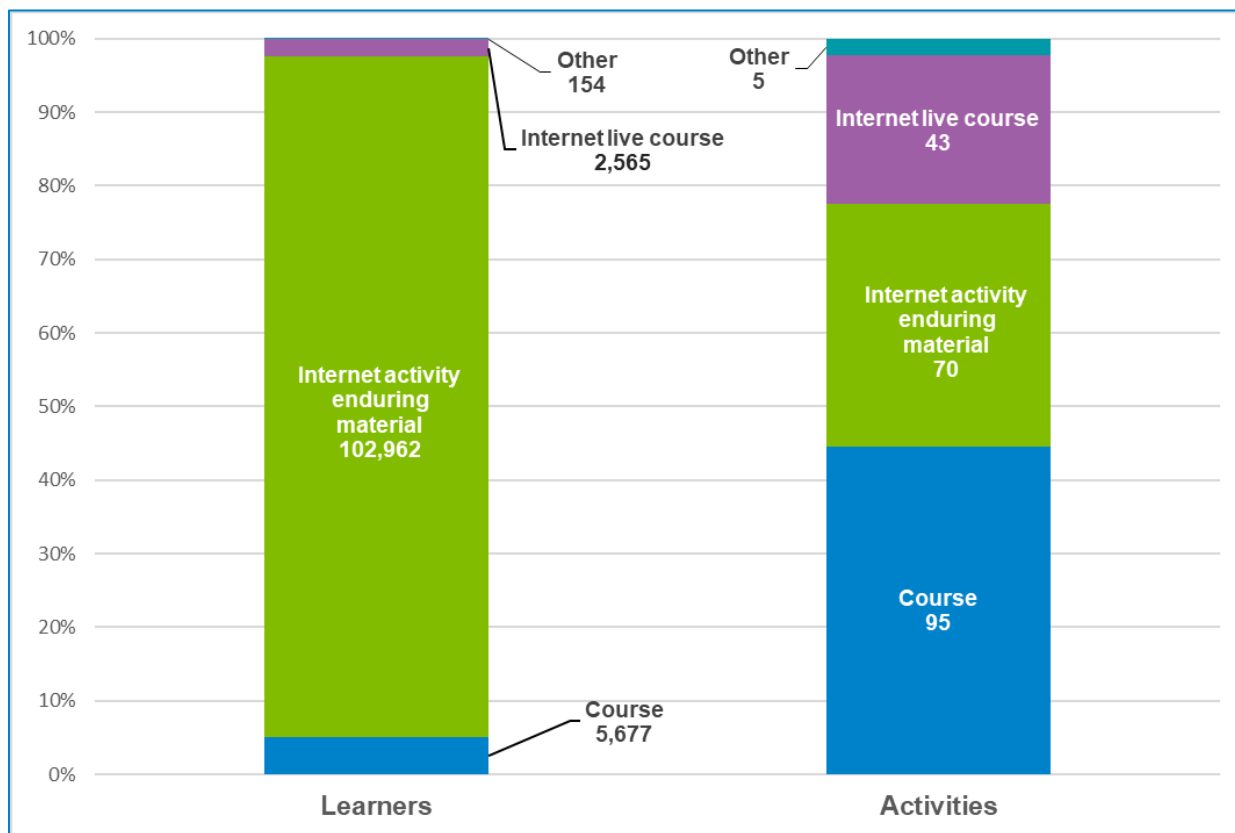


Figure 1. Numbers and percentages of OA REMS-compliant CE activities, by type. This includes activities that have already been held, are currently available, or planned for the future.

Of the 111,358 learners in OA REMS-compliant CE activities that had been held or released, 57% reported they were registered to prescribe Schedule 2 or 3 drugs (registered prescribers). Of these, approximately 82% indicated they had an individual license and 18% indicated they had an institutional license (Table 3).

Group	Number of learners in category	Percent of total learners	Percent of registered prescribers
Learners successfully completing	111,358	100%	-
Learners successfully completing who reported they are registered prescribers	63,715	57%	100%
Learners successfully completing who reported they have an individual license to prescribe	52,302	47%	82%
Learners successfully completing who reported they have an institutional license to prescribe	11,413	10%	18%

Table 4. Learners who completed OA REMS-compliant CE activities, including total numbers and registered prescribers.

Table 5 shows OA REMS-compliant CE activities by type of CE provider. This shows that schools of medicine currently reach the most learners (67,404) and prescribers (35,709).

CME Provider Type	Providers	Activities	All Learners	Registered Prescribers
Nonprofit (physician membership organization)	8	43	19,917	13,036
Not classified	1	13	1,622	1,275
Publishing/education company	9	61	22,415	13,695
School of medicine	6	96	67,404	35,709
Totals	24	213	111,358	63,715

Table 5. CE providers, activities, learners, and prescribers by CE provider type. This includes activities that have already been held, are currently available, or planned for the future.

Learners were also asked to indicate their profession, their length of time in practice, their practice area, and state in which they practice. The following tables illustrate this data.

Of the 111,358 learners who successfully completed these CE activities, physicians and advanced practice nurses made up the largest groups (Figure 2).

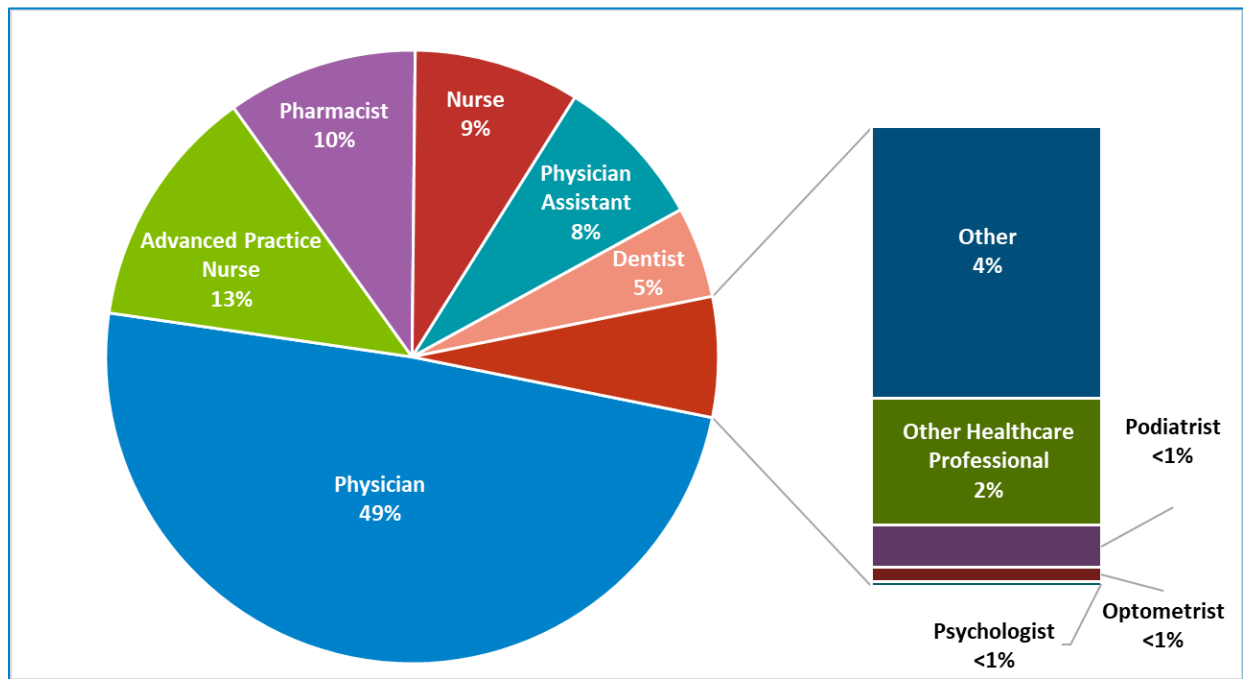


Figure 2. Learners who have successfully completed OA REMS-compliant CE activities, by profession (n=111,358).

Of the 111,358 learners reported, 99,739 (90%) learners reported their length of time in practice. The range of time is described below by profession (Figure 3).

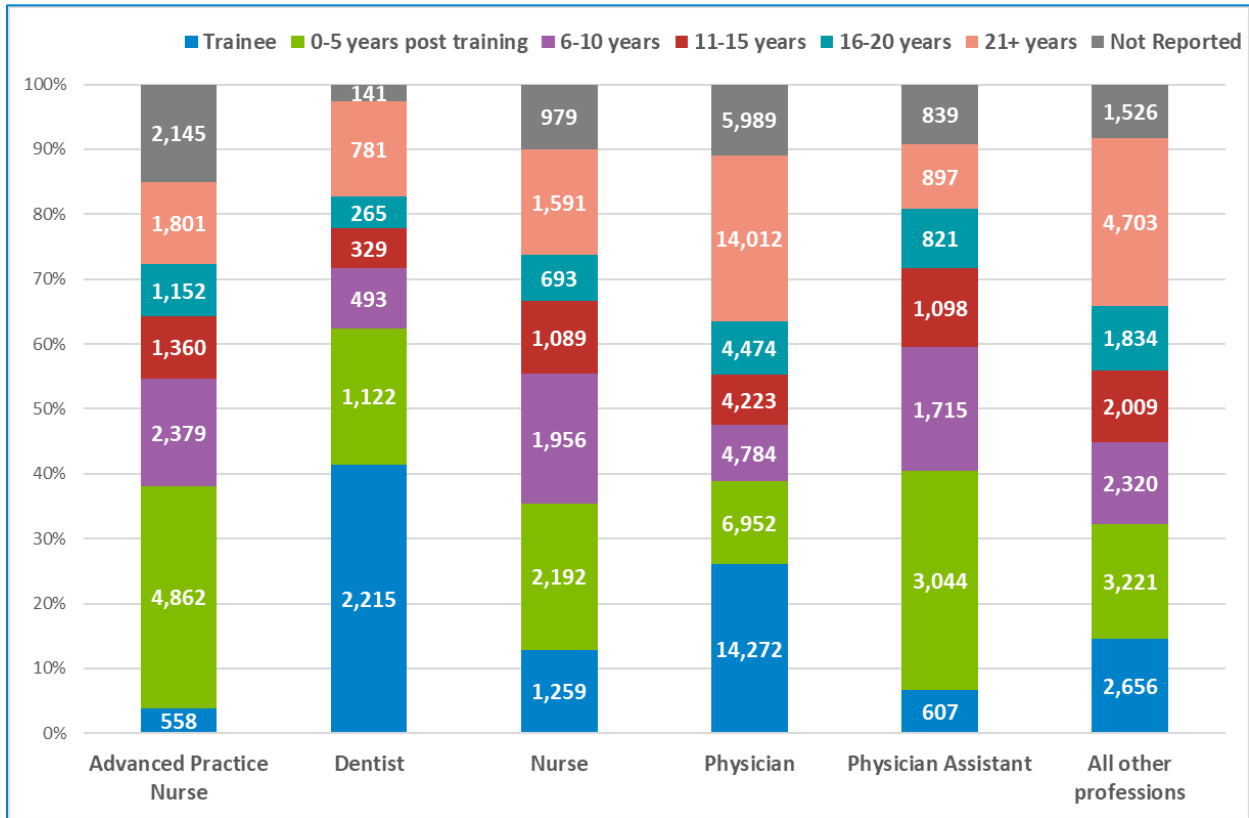


Figure 3. Learners who have successfully completed OA REMS-compliant CE activities by profession and length of time in practice.

Of the 111,358 learners, 108,241 (97%) reported their practice area. Figure 4 shows the top ten practice areas reported by learners. The most commonly reported practice area was “Other” with 21,332 learners. The practice area with the most learners with a license to prescribe Schedule 2 or 3 drugs (registered prescribers) was “Internal Medicine” with 11,263 learners.

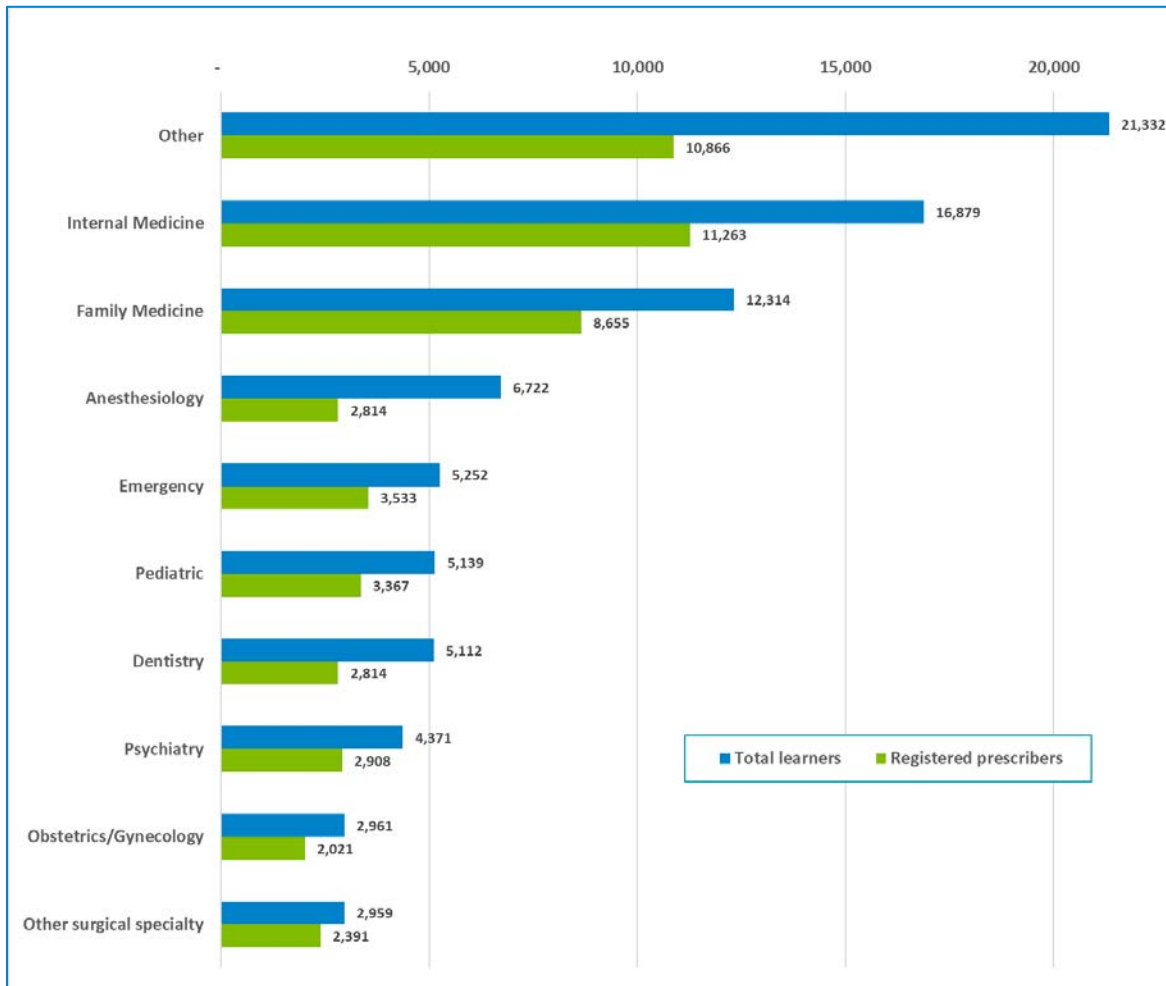


Figure 4. Top ten practice areas reported by learners listed by learner count and prescriber status.

Of the 111,358 learners, 95,593 (86%) reported the state in which they practice. Figure 5 shows this data.

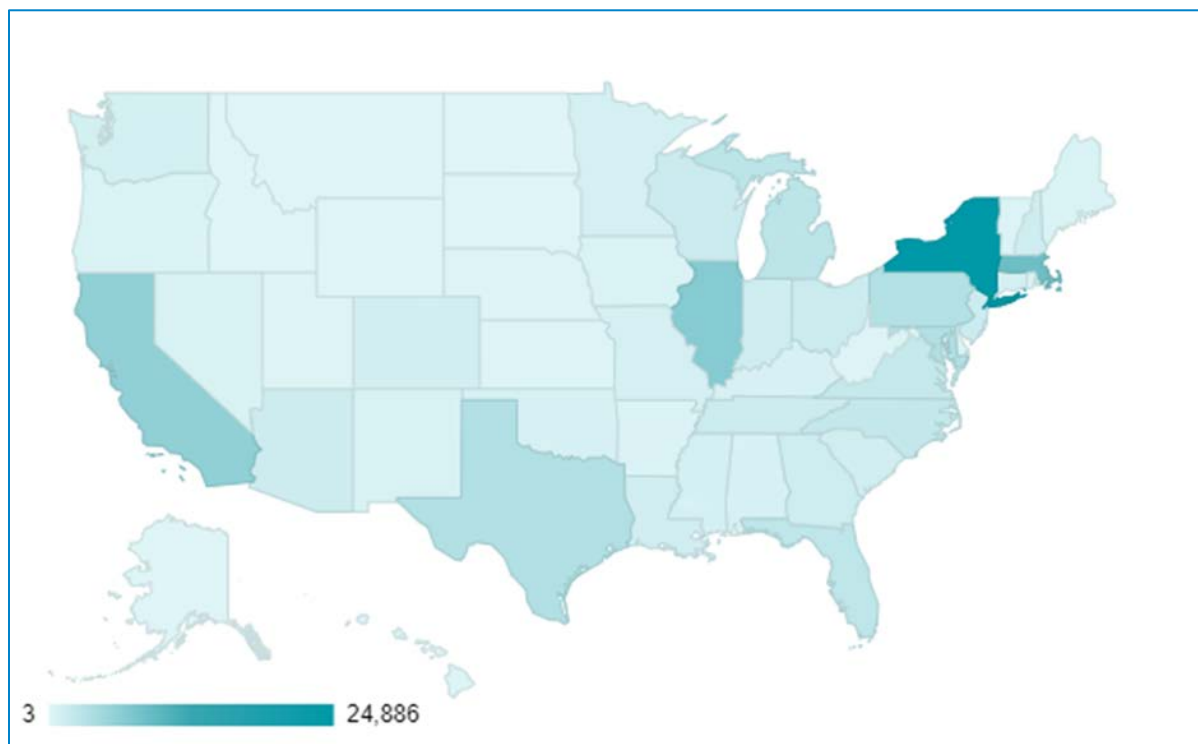


Figure 5. States in which learners practice.

State		Learners		
Alabama	768	Kentucky	722	
Alaska	169	Louisiana	1,201	
American Samoa	19	Maine	520	
Arizona	1,504	Maryland	3,464	
Arkansas	479	Massachusetts	8,541	
California	5,928	Michigan	2,714	
Colorado	1,149	Minnesota	863	
Connecticut	874	Mississippi	948	
Delaware	337	Missouri	909	
District of Columbia	365	Montana	122	
Florida	2,520	Nebraska	283	
Georgia	1,462	Nevada	702	
Guam	15	New Hampshire	1,353	
Hawaii	218	New Jersey	1,487	
Idaho	169	New Mexico	640	
Illinois	6,732	New York	24,886	
Indiana	1,356	North Carolina	2,173	
Iowa	487	North Dakota	126	
Kansas	320	Northern Mariana Islands	5	
		Ohio	1,608	
		Oklahoma	776	
		Oregon	518	
		Pennsylvania	3,321	
		Puerto Rico	96	
		Rhode Island	530	
		South Carolina	1,213	
		South Dakota	116	
		Tennessee	1,531	
		Texas	3,501	
		Utah	321	
		Vermont	362	
		Virgin Islands	3	
		Virginia	2,065	
		Washington	992	
		West Virginia	331	
		Wisconsin	1,640	
		Wyoming	139	
		Not Reported	15,765	
			Total	111,358

Appendix A: Accredited Providers that Reported ER/LA REMS-compliant Activities in PARS in 2019-2020

The following accredited providers offered **ER/LA REMS** REMS-compliant CE activities during 2019-2020, and reported both activity and learner data via PARS that are included in this updated 2020 REMS Data Report:

American College of Physicians
Boston University School of Medicine
CO*RE (Collaboration for REMS Education):
 Medscape, LLC
Global Education Group, Ltd.
Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine
Team Health Educational Institute

Appendix B: Accredited CE Providers that Reported OA REMS-Compliant Activities in PARS

The following accredited CE providers offered or plan to offer OA REMS-compliant activities and reported data via PARS that is included in this 2020 REMS Data Report:

AKH Inc. Advancing Knowledge in Healthcare
American Society of Anesthesiologists
Antidote Education Company
Boston University School of Medicine
CME Outfitters, LLC
CO*RE (Collaboration for REMS Education):
 American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine
 Interstate Postgraduate Medical Association of North America
 Medscape, LLC
 Ogden Surgical-Medical Society
Horizon CME, Inc.
Illinois State Medical Society
Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine
Massachusetts Medical Society/NEJM Group
MediCom WorldWide, Inc.
MedicusCME
Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation
Postgraduate Institute for Medicine
Pri-Med Institute
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
University of North Texas Health Science Center
USF Health