

New law provides that suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training may be included within the existing continuing education requirements for certain professionals licensed in Louisiana.

Provides that, beginning January 1, 2015, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) shall offer each of the following professional certified, licensed, or registered in Louisiana access to a list of certain training programs in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management through posting links to such training on the department's official website:

- (1) A mental health counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1101 et seq.
- (2) A social worker certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2701 et seq.
- (3) A psychiatrist and any other physician certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1261 et seq.
- (4) A psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:2351 et seq.
- (5) A medical psychologist certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.51 et seq.
- (6) A nurse certified or licensed under R.S. 37:911 et seq.
- (7) A physician assistant certified or licensed under R.S. 37:1360.21 et seq.
- (8) An addiction counselor certified or licensed under R.S. 37:3386 et seq.

Provides that the training programs and corresponding links included in the online list by DHH pursuant to new law may be offered in either continuous multi-hour blocks or spread over shorter training sessions.

Provides that the boards which regulate the professions listed in new law, at each board's discretion, may approve the hours spent completing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management under the proposed law as hours that may count toward meeting any applicable continuing education or continuing competency requirements for each profession.

New law provides that obtaining training listed or linked via the DHH website pursuant to new law shall not be construed to establish a legal basis for negligence or the standard of care or duty of care owed by a health care professional to a patient in any civil action for medical malpractice.

New law stipulates that DHH shall be immune from civil liability for the development and posting of a list of programs providing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management as provided for in new law.

New law requires that the secretary of DHH to develop a list of available programs providing training in suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management. In developing such a list, the secretary shall consider suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training programs listed on the best practices registry of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

New law requires that on or before January 1, 2015, the secretary shall make available on the department's official website online access to its developed list under new law and, where possible, links to training programs on the department's list.

New law provides that nothing therein may be interpreted to expand or limit the scope of practice of any profession regulated under prior law, or be construed to require DHH to develop training programs or curriculums or to create online training programs.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 37:24-27)