

# CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION FAQ'S

## 1. What is CME?

Continuing Medical Education (CME) is defined as “educational activities that serve to maintain, develop, o increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession” (source: ACCME and AMA).

## 2. Who is the ACCME?

ACCME is the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and is the organization that sets the standards for the accreditation of all providers of CME activities.

## 3. How do I initially set up a program with CME?

If you are interested in offering CME credit for an educational activity you are coordinating, please contact The Office of Continuing Medical Education at (513) 636-6732, by e-mail at [cme@cchmc.org](mailto:cme@cchmc.org) or complete the CME Activity Request Form ([www.cincinnatichildrens.org/cme](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/cme)) and fax to our office at (513) 636-7574 or e-mail at [cme@cchmc.org](mailto:cme@cchmc.org). You will be contacted within 3 business days of receipt.

## 4. What content is acceptable for CME?

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education’s definition of CME describes what content is acceptable for activities that are certified for credit:

Continuing medical education consists 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. The content of CME is that body of knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of health care to the public.

## 5. Why are there different levels of outcome measurement? Can't we always just complete Level 1?

Effectively evaluating professional competency and assessing accountability of physicians have long been major challenges in CME. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) identified six core competencies in 1999 for resident education. These same initiatives have been implicated recently in a new focus for enhancing professional competence: to guide and direct the development of continuing medical education programs for physicians.

With that being said, outcomes are a very important component of our CME mission, and are built into all aspects of the planning and approval processes. The use of standardized, flexible processes and tools, based on outcomes principles, keeps the focus on the ultimate needs of the patient. Training, education, and marketing of outcomes throughout

the organization is essential. Understanding these components to complete outcomes allows for an effective and efficient overall education program.

While utilizing a Level 1 evaluation is sufficient, we are asking divisions to dig deeper to better understand the effectiveness of their educational activity. It will also help us to determine the need for future activities.

6. Why does CME faculty (speakers, presenters, moderators, activity medical directors, authors, planning committee member, etc) have to complete a CME disclosure form?

The ACCME requires CME providers to obtain information on all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest(s) from everyone who is in a position to control the content of an educational activity in order to prevent potential bias in the educational content.

7. Are we required to issue credit certificates to physician participants?

The ACCME has no requirements about issuing credit and/or certificates. Should an individual require verification of attendance, the CME office can provide them with their transcript by calling (513) 636-6732 or by e-mail at [cme@cchmc.org](mailto:cme@cchmc.org). Annual transcripts are mailed to all participants by March for the previous year.

8. Does Cincinnati Children's designate CME credit for nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants?

Cincinnati Children's does not designate credit for these health professionals, but does issue course Certificates of Attendance and annual transcripts for non-physician health professionals. A Certificates of Attendance references *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit* to help them document their attendance at certified educational activities.

9. I have questions about nursing accreditation. Who can answer these questions for me?

All questions about nursing credit and accreditation can be directed to:

CCHMC's The Center for Professional Excellence-Education at (513) 636-4232, The State of Ohio Board of Nursing, (614) 466-3947, or The American Nurses Credentialing Center, <http://www.ana.org/ancc>.

10. Are sign in sheets required?

No. The accredited provider is free to choose whatever registration method works best for their organization and learners. If you would like sign in sheets for your records, please contact your CME Project Manager.

11. Can speakers be awarded credit for teaching in CME activities?

Yes, faculty can be awarded two (2) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits for each hour they present at a live activity designated for such credit. This credit acknowledges the learning associated with the preparation for an original presentation. Faculty may not claim simultaneous credit as a physician learner for sessions at which they present nor may claim credit for a presentation that is less than one hour in length. Shared presentations are unavailable for teaching credit. Credit may only be claimed once for repeated

presentations unless they can confirm that they have changed at least 50% of the presentation. The teaching credit form can be obtained directly from the AMA website at [www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/455/direct\\_credit\\_app.pdf](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/455/direct_credit_app.pdf).

12. Where do I find out what Courses, Regularly Scheduled Series, Conferences and other activities are being offered?

A listing of these activities can be viewed by visiting <http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/cme>

You can also find information on our enduring materials by visiting <http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/cme>

For further information, please contact The Office of Continuing Medical Education at (513) 636-6732 or by e-mail at [cme@cchmc.org](mailto:cme@cchmc.org).