



AAPA CME Criteria

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Effective March 2020

Criterion 1

The activity must conform to the AAPA definition of CME:

CME consists of clinical and professional educational activities that serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a PA uses to provide services for patients, the public, and the profession.

Criterion 2

The activity incorporates educational needs (knowledge, skills/strategy, or performance) that underlie the practice gaps of PAs as individuals or as members of the healthcare team.

Criterion 3

The activity has specific goals and/or objectives that are communicated to learners.

Criterion 4

The PA perspective is included in the planning process. This may be accomplished by including PAs as faculty, planners, or reviewers.

Criterion 5

The activity/educational intervention is designed to change the skills/strategy or performance of PAs and/or the healthcare teams of which they are a part.

Criterion 6

The activity is consistent with PAs' current or potential scope of professional practice.

Criterion 7

The choice of format for the activity/intervention is appropriate for the setting, goals/objectives, and desired result of the activity or intervention.

Criterion 8

The activity is developed in the context of the desirable attributes of PAs and the healthcare team (Competencies for the PA Profession, IOM Competencies for the Healthcare Team, and other relevant professional and ethical commitments).

Criterion 9

The activity is developed independent of commercial interests and in compliance with ACCME Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME ActivitiesSM including the following:

- Identification, resolution, and disclosure of relevant financial relationships of all individuals who control the content of a CME activity
- Appropriate management of commercial support (if applicable)
- Maintenance of the separation of promotion from education (if applicable)
- Promotion of improvement in healthcare and NOT proprietary interests of a commercial entity

Criterion 10

The activity must provide an assessment of the learner that measures achievement of the educational goals and/or objectives of the activity and focuses on change in PAs or the healthcare teams in which they practice in terms of skills/strategy, performance, or patient outcomes.

Criterion 11

Providers must have a mechanism to record and verify learner participation.

Criterion 12

Providers must issue documentation to learners verifying their participation. This documentation must include the appropriate AAPA credit designation statement indicating the number of Category 1 AAPA CME credits awarded, the learner's name, the name of the CME provider, the title of the CME activity, and the date of activity completion.

Criterion 13

Providers must maintain all activity records and data for a minimum of 5 years from the completion date.

Criterion 14

Activity materials such as syllabi, brochures, and promotional materials must include the appropriate AAPA credit designation statement and CME approval logo, with the exception of "save-the-date" communications that give only preliminary information such as title, date, and location.

Learn more at

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