

<i>Policy #:</i>	4.0	<i>Origination Date:</i>	2003
<i>Subject:</i>	Accreditation and Category Distinction	<i>Date of Last Revision:</i>	August 2014

Continuing Medical Education (CME): Continuing medical education consists of educational activities that serve to maintain, develop, and 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 the 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.

Accredited CME: The term used to refer to those activities in continuing medical education that have been deemed to meet the requirements and standards of a CME accrediting body (e.g., the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the American Osteopathic Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians). When the ACCME uses the term *accredited CME* in its documents and processes it is referring to activities and programs within the ACCME’s accreditation system. This includes CME providers directly accredited by the ACCME, as well as providers accredited by ACCME Recognized Accreditors (state/territory medical societies). The ACCME, as an accrediting body, is responsible and accountable only for the accredited CME presented under the umbrella of an ACCME or ACCME Recognized Accreditor accreditation statement. When the ACCME uses the term *accredited CME* it does not intend to dictate any rules or obligations of the CME accredited under the

auspices of other accreditors, such as the American Osteopathic Association or the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Accredited CME provider: An organization accredited by the ACCME or an ACCME recognized accreditor. When the ACCME uses the term *accredited CME provider* in its documents and processes, it is referencing organizations accredited within the ACCME's accreditation system who can issue CME credit to healthcare professionals; primarily physicians. This includes CME providers directly accredited by the ACCME, as well as providers accredited by ACCME Recognized Accreditors (state/territory medical societies). See also *intrastate provider*.

Definition of Category 1 CME

That activity which meets the broad definition cited above and is also:

- A planned, structured RSS/activity/enduring material
- Outlined with approved learning objectives
- Satisfying a pre-determined need of the Medical Staff
- Adheres to all essentials established by the Medical Society of Virginia
- Approved for CME Category 1 credit prior to the program presentation (see Applying for CME Credit)

Definition of Category 2 CME*

An activity which has not been formally designated by an accredited provider for Category 1 credit and:



- Improves the care provided to the patient, and/or is a worthwhile learning experience related to the physician's practice;
- Complies with AMA definition of CME;
- Complies with AMA ethical opinions on Gifts to Physicians from Industry and on Ethical Issues in CME

*NB: Inova Office of Continuing Medical Education does not offer or track Category 2 CME credits.

4.1 Accreditation Statement

The accreditation statement must appear on all CME RSS/activity/enduring material marketing materials distributed by accredited organizations. The only exceptions are save-the-date announcements containing only general, preliminary information about the activity such as the date, location, and title. If more specific information is included, such as faculty and objectives, the accreditation statement must be included.

The ACCME/Medical Society of Virginia's accreditation statement is as follows:

For directly sponsored activities: "Inova is accredited by the Medical Society of Virginia to provide continuing medical education for physicians."

For joint providership activities: "This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the essential areas and policies of the Medical Society of Virginia through the joint providership of Inova and (name of non-accredited provider). Inova is accredited by the Medical Society of Virginia to provide continuing medical education for physicians."

There is no "co-sponsorship" accreditation statement. If two or more accredited providers are working in collaboration on a CME activity, one provider must take responsibility for the compliance of that activity. Co-sponsored CME activities should use the directly sponsored activity statement, naming the one accredited provider that is responsible for the activity. The ACCME has no policy regarding specific ways in which providers may acknowledge the involvement of other ACCME-accredited providers in their CME activities.

Note:

The accreditation statement identifies the ACCME-accredited organization that is responsible for demonstrating the CME activity's compliance with all accreditation requirements.

4.2 Category 1 Credit

The following activities are NOT designated Category 1 CME by the Inova:

- Articles physicians publish, as first or second lead author, in journals indexed by the *Index Medicus*;
- Teaching at a live activity approved for AMA PRA Category 1 credit;
- Preparing a poster presentation, which is also included in the published abstracts, for a live activity approved for AMA PRA Category 1 credit;
- American Board of Medical Specialists (ABMS) member board certification and re-certification;
- Medically related advanced degrees, such as a masters in public health;

- Participation in an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited residency or fellowship program.

According to the AMA CME credit may not be claimed for learning which is incidental to the regular professional activities or practice of a physician, such as learning that occurs from:

- Clinical experience
- Charity or mission work
- Mentoring
- Surveying
- Serving on a committee, council task force, board, house of delegates or other professional workgroup
- Passing examinations that are not integrated with a certified activity

To obtain credit for these activities, physicians must apply to the AMA Physicians Recognition Award department. Contact information is as follows:

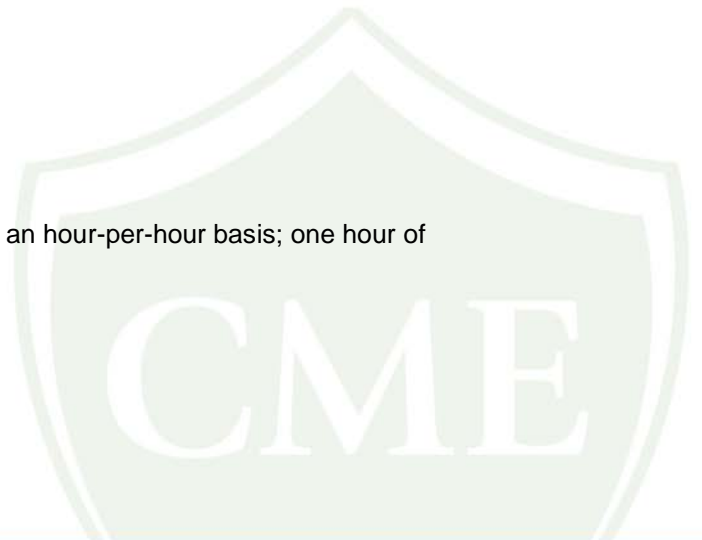
Web: www.ama-assn.org/go/pr

Email: pra@ama-assn.org

Phone: 312.464.4672

4.3 Calculation of Credit

Credit is designated for an approved activity on an hour-per-hour basis; one hour of education equals 1 credit.



Sixty minutes of physician participation in a certified learning activity generally equals one credit. For live activities, the credits should match the period of formal interaction between faculty and the physician audience.

Each participant is instructed to claim only those credits that he/she actually spends in an activity, rounded up to the nearest quarter hour or credit.

1 hour activity = 1.00 credit

1-1/4 hour activity = 1.25 credits

1-1/2 hour activity = 1.5 credits

1-3/4 hour activity = 1.75 credits

Registration, announcements, meals, networking breaks, etc. are not eligible for CME credit.

Inova Office of CME relies on the moral and ethical code of each attendee as they must log-in to icmes.inova.org and certify their attendance and the number of hours of attendance. Attendees will have 90 days post-event to claim their credit in the icmes system.

