



The AMA PRA CME Credit System

MMS & RIMS DME Conference
November 5, 2010

©2010 AMA

Faculty

Jeanette Harmon, MBA
Director, AMA PRA Standards and Policy
312.464.4677
Jeanette.harmon@ama-assn.org

Objectives

- List the requirements for the seven learning models approved for AMA PRA credit
- Describe modifications to the AMA PRA credit system and implementation expectations
- Apply the knowledge gained regarding AMA PRA core and format-specific requirements to the process of appropriately certifying activities and awarding *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* to physicians
- Cite resources available to obtain more information about the AMA PRA credit system

3

Mission of the AMA

Promote the
art and science of
medicine and
the betterment of
public health

4

AMA PRA Credit

- Established in 1968 as metric to be used for AMA Physician's Recognition Award (PRA)
- Metric for documenting participation in CME activities for credentialing, certification, licensing purposes
- All states with mandatory CME requirements accept AMA PRA credit as meeting CME requirements for licensure renewal

5

Effectiveness of CME

- Robertson et al., Impact studies in continuing education for health professions: update J. of Continuing Educ. in the Health Prof 2003; 23(3):146-156
- Marinopoulos, SS, Dorman T, Ratanawongsa N, Wilson LM, Ashar BH, Magaziner JL, Miller RG, Thomas PA, Prokopowicz GP, Qayyum R, Bass EB. Effectiveness of Continuing Medical Education. Evidence Report/Technology Assessment No. 149 (Prepared by the Johns Hopkins Evidence-based Practice Center, under Contract No. 290-02-0018.) AHRQ Publication No. 07-E006. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. January 2007
- Effectiveness of Continuing Medical Education: American College of Chest Physicians Evidence-Based Educational Guidelines. Chest 2009; 135(suppl)
- Forsetlund L, Bjørndal A, Rashidian A, Jamtvedt G, O'Brien MA, Wolf F, Davis D, Odgaard-Jensen J, Oxman AD. Continuing education meetings and workshops: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2009, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD003030. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003030.pub2.

6

AMA Definition of CME

CME 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 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.

(HOD policy #300.988)

PRA Booklet
Page 2

7

CME Credit systems for physicians

- Requirements for the AMA PRA credit system are set by the AMA Council on Medical Education
- Other credit systems include:
 - American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
 - American Osteopathic Association (AOA)

8

Certified CME

Definition:

1. Nonpromotional learning activities certified for credit prior to the activity by an organization authorized by the credit system owner, or
2. Nonpromotional learning activities for which the credit system owner directly awards credit

2

9

AMA PRA credit system and ACCME/SMS Accreditation

- Organizations that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or by a recognized state medical society (SMS) are authorized to certify educational activities for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*
- Certified activities must meet all AMA core and format-specific requirements

10

AMA Monitoring of CME Provider Compliance

- In cooperation with ACCME/SMS
- Investigation of complaints
- Review of information in public domain
- The AMA has the right to withdraw the privilege to designate *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* if an organization violates AMA requirements.

3

11

AMA PRA Credit

- AMA PRA credit is only earned by physicians defined as:
 - MDs
 - Dos
 - Equivalent medical degree from another country (<http://ecfmq.org/creds/refgde.html>)

3

12

Categories of AMA PRA Credit

- *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*
 - Certified and awarded by accredited CME providers
 - Certified and awarded directly by the AMA
- *AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™*
 - Self-claimed and documented by individual physicians

2-3

13

Periodic Review of AMA PRA credit system

- Quality improvement process
- Ensures that the standards for AMA certified CME continue to:
 - Enhance the core mission of AMA
 - Are physician-centered
 - Help physicians improve patient care
 - Are based on valid adult-learning principles
 - Demonstrate that the credit earned is credible to physicians, public, credentialing agencies, medical boards, and other stakeholders

14

Revisions

Changes are effective for all activities that occur or are released on or after:

JULY 1, 2011

Accredited CME providers may choose to implement changes before July 2011.

15

AMA Approved Learning Formats

1. Live activity
2. Enduring material
3. Journal-based CME activity
4. Test-item writing activity
5. Manuscript review activity
6. PI CME activity
7. Internet Point of Care activity

4-7

16

Core Requirements for all Learning Formats

1. Conform to AMA's definition of CME
2. Address demonstrated educational needs
3. Communicate to participants a clearly identified educational purpose/objectives
4. Designed using appropriate AMA approved learning formats; credit based on the format
5. Content appropriate in depth and scope for intended physician audience

4

17

Core Requirements for all Learning Formats

6. Planned in accordance with relevant CEJA ethical opinions and ACCME Standards for Commercial Support; nonpromotional
7. Evaluate effectiveness in achieving purpose/objectives
8. Document credits claimed by physicians
9. Certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* in advance of activity
10. Include the AMA PRA Credit Designation Statement in activity materials

4

18

Learning format: Live Activity

- Occurs at a specific time as scheduled by the accredited CME provider
- Includes
 - Courses
 - Regularly scheduled conferences
 - Live internet
 - Simulation workshops

4-5

19

Learning format: Live Activity

- Journal clubs
 - Structured learning activity in which physicians discuss articles that were read prior to participation
 - Not Journal-based CME
- Committee learning
 - Structured learning activity presented during committee meetings
 - Work of committee does not qualify

20

Learning format: Live Activity (cont)

- Credit calculation is based on time that physician participates; 60 minutes = 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* (credit can be claimed in quarter-hour increments or 0.25 credits)
- Faculty credit may be awarded for preparing and presenting an original presentation in a 2:1 ratio to presentation time

21

Learning format: Enduring Material

- Activity that endures over a specified time
 - Provide clear instructions to learner on completion of activity
 - Provide access to bibliographic sources
 - Provide an assessment of learner that measures achievement of purpose/objectives with minimum performance level required for credit
 - Rationale - Brings consistency to what is already a frequent practice; strengthens confidence that physicians have assimilated the content and met the objectives.
- Credit calculation based on time it takes average target audience to complete; 60 minutes = 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*



5

22

Learning format: Journal-based CME

- Article, within a peer-reviewed professional journal, certified for credit prior to publication
 - Peer-reviewed article
 - Provide an assessment of learner that measures achievement of purpose/objectives with minimum performance level required for credit
 - Rationale - Brings consistency to what is already a frequent practice; strengthens confidence that physicians have assimilated the content and met the objectives.
- Individual articles are certified for 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* (not time-based)



5 23

Learning format: Test Item Writing

- Physicians learn through contributions to development of high-stakes examinations or certain peer-reviewed self-assessment activities
 - Be developed only for:
 - NBME examinations
 - ABMS member board certification examinations
 - National specialty society peer-reviewed, published, self-assessment examinations
 - Depth and scope that requires review of literature and evidence base
 - Includes participation in a group peer review process
 - Completion of process certified for 10 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* (not time-based)

5-6 24

Learning format: Manuscript Review

- Physicians learn through the critical review of an assigned journal manuscript
 - Reviewed article must be submitted to a journal indexed in MEDLINE
 - Manuscript must be original article requiring multiple reviewers
 - Depth and scope that requires review of literature and evidence base
 - Credit only awarded for acceptable reviews
- Rationale - Provides consistency that credit is awarded to physicians that fully participate in activity in a meaningful way
- Certified for 3 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* (not time-based)



6

25

Learning format: Performance Improvement CME (PI CME)

- Long-term three-stage process based on evidence-based performance measures
- May address any facet of physician practice with direct implications for patient care (structure, process, or outcome)

6-7

26

Learning format: PI CME

- 3 Stages
 - Stage A: Current practice performance assessment
 - Stage B: Application of PI to patient care
 - Stage C: Practice performance re-assessment after the PI CME effort

New

Physician must begin with Stage A

- Rationale - Ensures that a physician has done an assessment of practice to determine baseline and his/her performance that needs to be improved
- Certified for 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*; physician awarded 5 credits for each stage if only one or two stages completed

27

Learning format: Internet Point of Care (PoC)

- Structured activity in which physician engages in self-directed, online learning on topics relevant to practice
 - 3 stage learning cycle must be completed
 1. Review clinical question
 2. Identify relevant sources
 3. Describe application to practice
 - Certified for 0.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* for completion of each cycle

7

28

AMA PRA Credit Designation Statement

- Indicates that activity has been certified as being in compliance with AMA PRA requirements
- The [name of accredited CME provider] designates this [**learning format**] for a maximum of [number of credits] *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM*. Physicians should claim **only** the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
- Rationale – Addition of learning format clarifies to physicians and organizations that require credit that the activity was planned to meet the AMA's requirements for the specific activity type

New

7

29

AMA Approved Learning Formats

1. Live activity
2. Enduring material
3. Journal-based CME activity
4. Test-item writing activity
5. Manuscript review activity
6. PI CME activity
7. Internet Point of Care activity

30

Examples of Credit Designation Statement usage

The ABC hospital designates this **live activity** for a maximum of 3 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The ABC hospital designates this **PI CME activity** for a maximum of 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

31

AMA Trademark phrase “*AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*”

- Phrase trademarked in 2006 to:
 - Protect the integrity of credit system
 - Protect accredited providers and physicians
 - Protect legal standing when challenged
- Complete phrase in italics with trademark symbol
 - Required whenever it is used in publications, AMA credit designation statement, certificates or documentation for participants
 - Complete phrase is always required – never use just ‘Category 1’

7

32

AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™

- Self-claimed and documented by individual physicians for activities that:
 1. Meet the definition of CME, and
 2. Comply with relevant CEJA opinions, and
 3. Are nonpromotional, and
 4. Worthwhile learning experience related to physician's practice
- Accredited CME providers must not promote or award this credit
- Physician maintains documentation

10

AMA Direct Credit Activities

- Recognizes learning that occurs for participation in certain activities that have educational value but have not been developed by an accredited CME provider
- Physicians must provide documentation of completion of each activity
- *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* for these activities may only be awarded by the AMA

9

34

AMA Direct Credit Activities

1. Preparing and presenting an original presentation at a live activity certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* (if not awarded by accredited provider)
 - 2 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* per 1 hour of presentation time
2. Publishing, as the lead author, a peer-reviewed article in a journal indexed in MEDLINE
 - 10 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* per article
3. Preparing a poster presentation, as the first author, included in the abstracts of an activity certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*
 - 5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* per poster

9

35

AMA Direct Credit Activities

4. Obtaining a medically related advance degree
 - 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* per degree
5. Completing an ABMS board certification of MoC© process
 - 60 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* per certification
 - Rationale – increase credits from 25 to 60 to be consistent with standard AMA Physician's Recognition Award (effective for all certifications completed on or after September 1, 2010)
6. Participation in an ACGME approved residency or fellowship
 - 20 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* per year



36

AMA Physician's Recognition Award

- Demonstrate to public and profession the physician's commitment to lifelong learning and staying current in medical issues
- Certificate or approved application accepted by 42 state licensing jurisdictions as documentation of meeting CME requirements
- Requires a minimum average of 50 credits per year
- AMA will work with organizations to enable groups of physicians to get the award

www.ama-assn.org/go/applypra

11

37

AMA Educational Outreach

- Webinars
- State Medical Society and other provider conferences
- Alliance for CME annual meeting
- Association for Hospital Medical Education
- CPPD Report newsletter
- AMA website

38

Questions?

39

Resources

- Division of Continuing Physician Professional Development (CPPD)
 - www.ama-assn.org/go/cppd
- AMA PRA credit system
 - www.ama-assn.org/go/pracredit
 - www.ama-assn.org/go/prabooklet
- Resources for physicians
 - www.ama-assn.org/go/cme

40

Resources

- Information for CME providers
 - www.ama-assn.org/go/cmeprovider
- CPPD Report Newsletter
 - www.ama-assn.org/go/cppdreport
- AMA CPPD Webinars
 - www.ama-assn.org/go/webinarscppd

41

