



# EUROPEAN BOARD FOR ACCREDITATION IN PNEUMOLOGY - EBAP

## Accreditation of E-learning

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# European Specialty Accreditation Boards (ESABs)

Joint boards composed of members from UEMS Sections and European Scientific Societies

Cardiology (ESC)	EBAC
Pneumology (ERS)	EBAP
Infectious Diseases (ESCMID)	EBAID
Urology (EAU)	EU-ACME
<i>Oncology (ECCO)</i>	<i>ACOE</i>
<i>Haematology (EHA)</i>	<i>ECAH</i>



# From Accreditation Guidelines (1)

## **E-learning**

HTML courses,  
live online webcourses,  
pre-recorded webcasts,  
CD-Roms

The language must be English.



## From Accreditation Guidelines (2)

### **Information required from provider:-**

- names and affiliations of those involved
- sources of funding esp. pharmaceutical industry
- duration of learning experience
- protection of learner confidentiality
- expiry date
- bibliography to show evidence base



## From Accreditation Guidelines (3)

A programme of 30 - 40 minutes should contain 4 - 5 multiple choice questions - answers transmitted online to the providers. Learners may not go back to the question to correct the answer.

Webcasts, talks: 60 minutes

1 CME credit

HTML-based (3500-4500 words excl. references)

1 CME credit

Credits are awarded on the basis of 1 credit per hour of study but are dependent on satisfactory answers to the questions. EBAP considers that 75% of the questions must be answered correctly to qualify for credits. A failed test may not be repeated until after a minimum of 1 week's waiting period.



# Accreditation process

## Event or programme accreditation

- Every educational programme reviewed separately
- Entire programme reviewed by two pneumologists
  - EBAP has recruited 32 reviewers
    - Unpaid now but situation under review
- Time-consuming process
- Requires coordinator/s in addition to unpaid doctor/s
- 30 specialties in Europe
- National Accreditation Authorities (NAAs) have similar responsibilities for purely national programmes



# FEES to ESAB/EACCME

EBAP

Flat fee of €250 per programme  
main source of income from  
annual respiratory congress

EACCME

Flat fee of €600, additional fee of  
€600 per additional hour

System will become stressed when workload on  
reviewers increases



# FEES TO PROVIDERS (1)

- Each week, three articles in the *New England Journal of Medicine* have a companion CME exam available online. You can earn up to 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ for each exam successfully completed.
- Cost for non-subscribers - \$15 per exam. This fee includes full-text access to the source article for the exam.



## FEES TO PROVIDERS (2)

- European providers not financed by pharmaceutical industry already complaining about cost of accreditation
- Providers financed by industry complain about overall cost of accreditation

Will European doctors pay providers  
For e-learning credits?



## Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians (UK) - 2007

- Physicians are required to register, on an annual basis, a minimum of 50 CPD Credits, of which 25 must be External Credits.
- Physicians can register a maximum of 7 Approved Distance-Learning Credits towards their minimum annual requirement of 25 External Credits.
- UK physicians can obtain all External Credits from attending live events.
  - Therefore unlikely to pay for e-learning credits



# Provider Accreditation

- Providers' records are reviewed by Accreditation Board using doctors of any specialty
- Individual events or e-learning programmes are not reviewed
- Satisfactory reviews allow providers to continue for a defined period e.g. 3 years
- Unsatisfactory reviews allow a shorter period e.g. 1 year before reapplication for accreditation
- System employed in USA (hospital medicine) and Italy



# Provider Accreditation

- Advantages
  - Easier to operate
  - Requires fewer personnel
  - Retrospective rather than predictive
- Disadvantages
  - May be too expensive for small, poorly financed providers
  - Would exclude contribution from NAAs for live international events in their own countries



# When should Europe decide?

- Reason for delaying
  - Wait until present system is more developed and can be better assessed
- Reason for deciding quickly
  - More specialties are now investing in present system which will soon become too established to change easily



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## European Board for Accreditation in Pneumology

EBAP ensures high quality international CME activities throughout Europe. EBAP accreditation ensures that a meeting fulfils the highest quality standards, and that a physician who chooses an EBAP accredited CME course, will be assured that it has been carefully assessed according to European quality standards for CME activities.

EBAP works in accordance with principles established by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME). EBAP accredits only international CME activities, and aims to work in parallel with national CME systems. EBAP provides a uniform accreditation system in the assessment of European CME activities in pneumology.



[www.ebap.org](http://www.ebap.org)