



Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe

Continuing Medical Education (CME) in Europe

A survey of the situation in the 27 EU Member States

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Austria

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: Arztkademie (Austrian Medical Chamber)

Website: www.arztkademie.at

Credit points requirements: 150 CME points/ 3 years

Credit point system: 1 CME point = 45 minutes

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

Guidelines of the Austrian Medical Chamber on CME were released in 2004. Medical doctors are under the obligation to participate continuously in certified CME programmes of the Medical Chamber at province or at national level or in recognized international CME programmes.

All medical doctors have to prove altogether 150 CME points over a period of 3 years. Within these 150 points, a minimum of 120 points have to be acquired through specialty-related certified CME programmes, at least 40 points of which have to be done in the specialty of the concerned doctor.

6 CME points are credited for CME events of one day and 3 CME points are credited for a half-day. One CME point is equivalent to a complete CME unit i.e. 45 minutes.

CME falls under the sphere of competence of the Austrian Medical Chamber, the Austrian Academy of Physicians and the medical chambers in the provinces.

The CME Advisory Committee of the Austrian Medical Chamber has instituted a Accreditation Council to which CME providers can submit an application to be accredited. This accreditation is transmitted to the CME assessors of the specialty concerned, as well as to the Province Medical Chambers. Furthermore the application may be submitted to the head of a university clinic specialized in the given specialty for an additional statement.

In order to provide medical doctors the possibility of documenting publicly their participation in structured CME, the Austrian Medical Chamber has instituted the 'CME Programme of the Medical Chamber' (Diplom-fortbildungs-programm'). The participation in the programme is voluntary but strongly recommended. The Austrian Medical Chamber has introduced a CME certificate which is awarded to the individual doctor upon application and which gives evidence of successful graduation from the CME Programme. Doctors submit their application at the CME department of the competent medical chamber at province level. Within the DFP, uniform CME quality standards are developed and guaranteed. The DFP is implemented at national level in a uniform manner.



The Austrian Academy of Physicians, through its CME Committee is charged with further developing the CME Programme of the Medical Chamber'. This Committee is responsible for executing and implementing the CME guidelines as well as advising the Austrian Medical Chamber in the area of CME.

Reading medical literature under the CME Programme can only be done by means of a specific software which has been designed for this purpose. This software makes sure that medical doctors register online as CME participants in using their personal code for the purpose of answering questions. A certificate is sent by e-mail confirming the number of CME points eligible for credit.

CME e-learning is considered as a valid way to collect CME credits. Physicians who have participated in CME e-learning activities can submit their certificate of participation for recognition through the Austrian Medical Chamber which will check the compliance of these activities with the CME criteria established by the Austrian Medical Chamber/Austrian Academy of Physicians.

It is incumbent on the President of the Medical Chamber to decide, upon recommendation of the Accreditation Council, whether the decisions taken by institutions recognized at international level with regard to mutual recognition of credits awarded in international CME events automatically enter into force in Austria. The UEMS EACCME accredited events are automatically recognised by the Austrian Medical Chamber.



Belgium

CME compulsory: NO (but financial incentive)

Name of the CME competent authority: INAMI/RIZIV (Institut National d'Assurance Maladie Invalidité)

Website: www.inami.fgov.be

Credit points guidelines: 60 credits/3 years

Credit points system: max 1 CME point/hour

CME accepted in the format of e-learning: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

Continuing medical education (CME) is not compulsory in Belgium. However, health professionals willing to be accredited must demonstrate that they have collected a minimum of 60 credit points over a 3-year period. Accredited health professionals are entitled to an annual fixed fee.

The National Health Insurance Institute (INAMI- RIZIV) is in charge of regulating continuing medical education in Belgium. Credit points are attributed according to the type of CME activity (workshop, events, acting as a moderator or speaker at a CME event, etc.) with a maximum of 1CME point/hour (case discussions in hospitals are accredited 0,5 CME point/hour). There are also some rules concerning the number of CME points to claim on a yearly basis for each of the 11 types of CME activities. These include: workshops, regional seminars, national symposia, international congresses, didactic publications, scientific presentations (courses, abstracts, posters), or acting as moderator.

The INAMI also provides credit points to CME e-learning activities since 2005 and has developed its own accreditation form for organizers of e-learning materials. It allocates 1 credit per hour of e-learning activity. The INAMI participates in the UEMS EACCME system. Since January 2007, EACCME accredited events are automatically recognized by the INAMI.





Bulgaria

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: Bulgarian Medical Association

Website: www.blsbg.com

Credit points requirements: 150 points/year

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: NO

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: NO

CME was made mandatory by the Health Act. There is a special Directive for CME according to which every practicing physician must obtain 150 CME points per year.

The points accredited to Bulgarian doctors through their participation in accredited EACCME accredited events are not automatically recognized by the Bulgarian Medical Association.

E-learning activities are not accepted as valid CME activities to collect CME credits in Bulgaria.





Cyprus

CME compulsory: NO

Name of the CME competent authority: Cyprus Medical Association

Website: www.cyma.org.cy

Credit points requirements: 150 credits/3 years

Credit/point system: 1 credit/hour

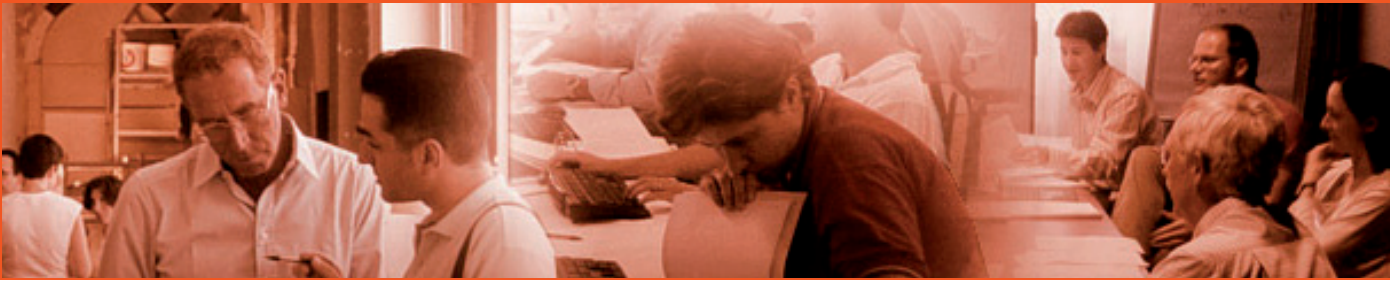
CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

In 2002, the Cyprus Medical Association established a voluntary system on CME involving the scientific societies. The recommendation is to collect 150 CME credits over a period of 3 years. Cyprus participates in the UEMS EACCME system and therefore accepts all accredited European programs. There is one credit for each hour of participation in various local meetings or seminars and international conferences.

The Cyprus Medical Association accepts CME learning through accredited e-learning. Participation in e-learning is credited with one point for each hour spent. 10 credits are given for a published article in journal (Medical Cyprus) and 20 credits for a publication in international article. Lecture in Medical Conference in Cyprus is credited with 10 points and a poster in an International Conference is credited 10 points. Publication of a chapter in book is credited with 30 points and publication of a book 50 points.





Czech Republic

CME compulsory: NO

Name of the CME competent authority: Czech Medical Chamber

Website: www.lkr.cz

Credit points requirements: 100 credits/5 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

The Czech Medical Chamber is an independent, non-political autonomous professional organisation responsible for the interests, the professionalism, the ethics and the honour of the medical profession.

The law prescribes obligatory membership in the CMC for all physicians providing diagnostic and/or therapeutic treatment in Czech Republic.

Through its power to award licences to doctors, the Chamber determines the conditions under which its members engage in private practice and act as expert representatives and head physicians in non-governmental health care facilities. Furthermore, CMC lays down the professional requirements for the performance of diagnostics and therapeutic methods and supervises Continuing Medical Education (CME). It issues opinions on the conditions and forms of CME.

These activities, too, serve to promote the use of the highest professional standards by CMC members. The Chamber thus guarantees to the patients that health care is provided in accordance with the latest knowledge of modern medical science.





Denmark

CME compulsory: NO

Name of the CME competent authority: Danish Medical Association

Website: <http://www.laeger.dk>

Credit points recommendation: 50 CME /year

Credit/point system: 1 CME credit/hour

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

CME is not mandatory in Denmark.

CME is governed by the Danish Medical Association together with the National Scientific Societies.

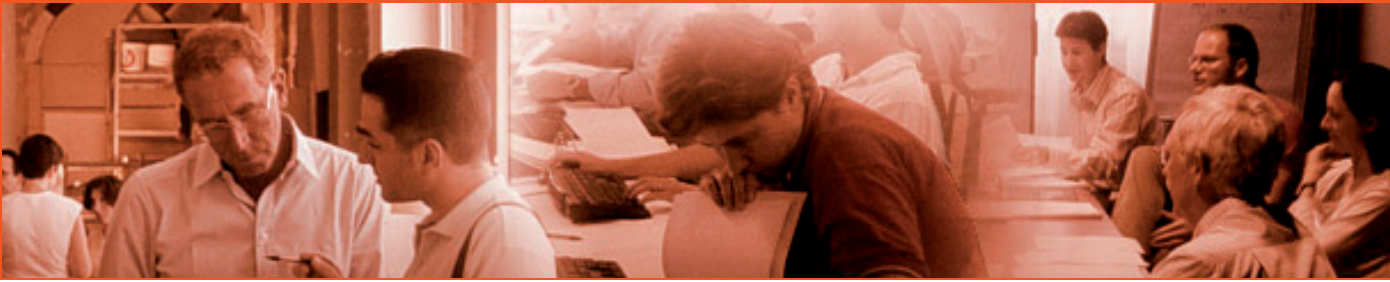
There is an unofficial recommendation of 50 CME hours per year. However, surveys show that Danish doctors spend much more time on CME/CPD activities, even when only formal activities are measured. Although CME is not compulsory, it is considered very important to secure structured, relevant and financed CME/CPD.

The Danish Medical Association recognizes the validity of the EACCME credit points even though these points have no formal use.

The Association recommends a wide range of CME activities including personal learning plans, peer reviews, etc.

There is a voluntary electronic system in place for health professionals willing to document their activities and compare their profile with peer colleagues.





Estonia

CME compulsory: NO

Name of the CME competent authority: Estonian Medical Association

Website: <http://www.arstideliit.ee>

Credit points recommendations: 300 credits/5 years

Credit point system: 1 CME credit = 45 minutes

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: NO

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: NO

CME is not mandatory in Estonia. There is a voluntary system in place for health professionals every 5 years. The system is managed by the Estonian Medical Association working closely with the scientific societies.

The Scientific societies are accrediting CME events. The Estonian Society of Oncologists has established a special committee for the accreditation of oncology events.

Estonia doesn't participate in the UEMS EACCME system. For the moment e-learning is not very popular in Estonia and CME credits gained through E-learning activities are not accepted.

There are ongoing discussions on a possible move towards mandatory CME but with no concrete results for the time being.





Finland

CME compulsory: No

Name of the CME competent authority: Pro Medico has made the agreement with EACCME

Website: <http://www.promedico.fi>

Credit points recommendations : 3-10 working days

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

In 1999, the Finnish Medical Association adopted guidelines relating to continuing medical education of physicians which are based on the premises that physicians have both a right to continuing medical education (CME) and an ethical obligation to participate in it.

In 2005, The Ministry of Social Affairs has published recommendations for continuing education including for healthcare professionals.

Recommendation 1:

Planning of continuing education should:

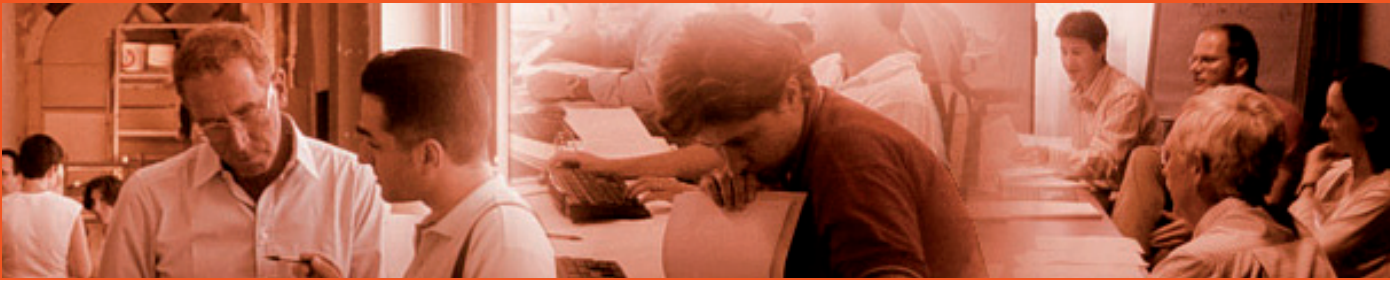
- take into account the needs of patients, participants in education and the health care system.
- take place together with participants.
- be part of the strategy work and development of operations of organisations
- identify the needs for skills and education
- make use of career development discussions with personnel, skills surveys, career plans and information obtained through the evaluation and monitoring of continuing education

A good education plan is practical, economical and can be assessed.

Recommendation 2:

Making continuing education possible and its realization

- It is the employer's responsibility is to make sure that an employee can take part in education.
- Participation is every employee's responsibility.
- The employer bears the main responsibility for financing continuing education.
- Education is part of the development of operations and quality management.
- Education aims at assessing, updating and modifying practices when necessary
- Continuing education is performed at individual level, group's level or at the level of the working unit.



- Continuing education is realised in regional and sub-regional cooperation of specialised medical care and primary health care, as far as possible, and so that it covers the whole healthcare chain.
- The effectiveness of community services and special characteristics of primary health care are emphasised in health centre work.
- Small organisations take part in regional and subregional co-operation on education.
- Effective methods of learning are used including virtual learning

Recommendation 3:

Monitoring of continuing education

- Monitoring should take place at individual, group and organisation's level.
- Reporting on education should be part of the annual report on human resources.
- At the individual level, career development discussions,
- Health professionals should make use of skills files, education files, log books and electronic personal files.
- Electronic continuing education registers should be developed for the organisations.
- In the long term, regional portals and national further education registers should be developed.

Recommendation 4:

Evaluation criteria for continuing education

- Were the participants involved in the planning and evaluation of the education activity?
- Did the participants know in advance what were the objectives?
- Were the teachers skilled and competent enough?
- Were teaching and learning methods that support adult learning used in the education activity?
- Did the teachers use documented methods for continuous evaluation of their teaching?
- Were different methods of evaluation - from self assessment to external assessment used?
- Were the employee and organisation specific objectives achieved?
- Did the modes of operation and performance of participants change?

A National Evaluation Council for CME was established involving specialist societies and universities providing advices on principles and good practices. This Council was transformed into Pro Medico Organisation which started working with CME/CPD in 2008.



France

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: National Councils for Continuing Medical Education

Website: www.cnfmc.fr

Credit points requirements: 250 CME points/ 5 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: NO

CME is compulsory since 1996. The Act on Patient Rights and Quality of Care of 2002 made CME compulsory for all medical health professionals. An additional law adopted in 2004 introduced the new obligation of Professional Practice Assessment (PPA).

In February 2004, three national Councils for CME were created for the three types of medical practices: Medical practitioners in hospitals, liberal medical practitioners, employed medical practitioners (e.g. médecine du travail). In addition a Coordinating national Committee was created emanating from the three national Councils (Conseils Nationaux pour la Formation Médicale Continue- CNFMC).

In 2005/2006, various decrees were published to put the laws into practice.

The law requires to collect 250 CME points over a 5-year period. Four types of CME activities are accepted:

- 1) formal learning opportunities provided by accredited CME providers
- 2) distance learning (e-learning and articles reading)
- 3) learning professional activities (research activities, teaching, etc,
- 4) evaluation of professional practices.

Health professionals must collect a pre-defined number of points for each category. The National Councils together with the Health Ministry defines national priority areas for CME for which health professionals can gain an additional percentage of CME credits when participating in CME activities on these priority topics.

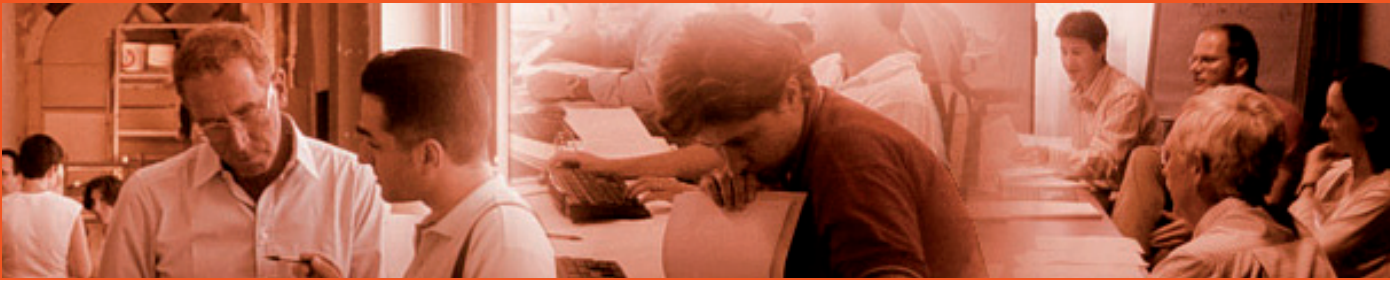
The National Councils accredit CME providers. Since the end of 2006, a new website was launched enabling health professionals to know the rules for the validation of their CME activities and for CME providers to know the rules for the accreditation of their organization as CME provider. CME providers must be headquartered in France to be eligible to apply for accreditation.



Each practitioner is supposed to be attached to a Regional Council which will validate the points collected and issue a certificate of participation.

A law was passed on June 24, 2009 (loi HPST, article 59, http://ameli.senat.fr/publication_pl/2008-2009/463.html) that creates a CPD system replacing the existing CME Decree. The law will be enforced after the publication of decrees, and it could be in 2010. In the meantime, the existing CME system must be followed up by doctors, but there are no incentives or disincentives in the system.

France does not participate in the UEMS EACCME system.



Germany

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent Authority: The German Medical Association (Bundesärztekammer), 16 regional chambers of physicians

Website: www.bundesaerztekammer.de

Credit points requirements: 150 credits/3 years or 250 credits/5 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

Continuing Medical Education is mandatory for all physicians practicing in Germany. In 2004, The German Medical Association (the Bundesärztekammer) issued a Regulation Framework for Continuing Medical Education which serves as a model regulatory procedure for all the 16 Medical Chambers in Germany.

This Regulation specifies that each physician has to collect 250 credits/5 years.

The physician is free to choose the nature of his/her continuing education. The manner in which knowledge is acquired is to be geared to the individually different forms of learning behaviour. Insofar as continuing education particularly takes place through participation in continuing education events, the physician should comply with the obligation to undergo continuing education by attending continuing education measures recognized by one of the State Medical Chamber. Each regional chamber agreed the mutual recognition of CME credits.

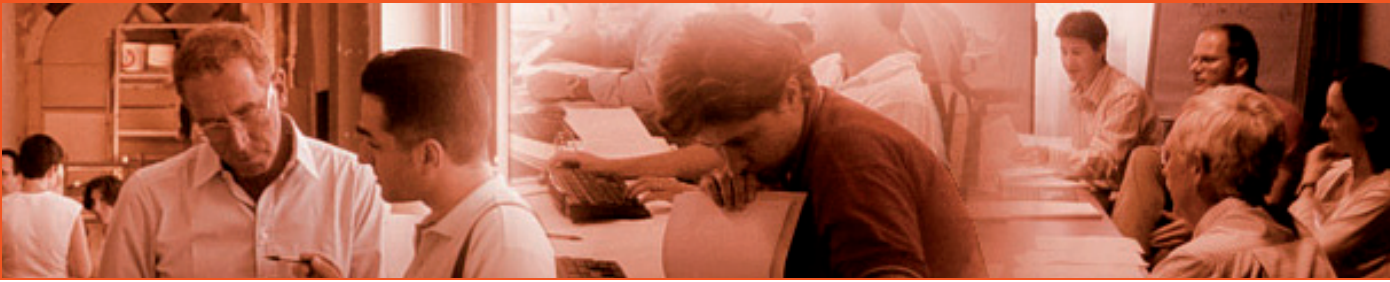
A continuing education certificate is awarded by the Regional State Medical Chambers to the physician who has fulfilled the requirements.

There are 7 categories of continuing education measures suitable for the continuing education certificate.

Categories:

- A) Lecture and discussion
- B) Congresses
- C) Active participation (workshops)
- D) Interactive education (print & online)
- E) Self study of scientific literature
- F) Author/referent
- G) Practical training

Due to the increasing importance of long distance learning / web-based training the maximum score for interactive learning no longer has a maximum limit in accordance with the guidelines of



the German Federal Medical Association. This is likely to be taken over by the different Medical Chambers of the different States within the near future.

MDs have usually to pay for their CME-activities themselves, industrial sponsorship is restricted to certain rules by MDs Legal Code on the one hand and ethical codes of different branches of pharmaceutical and medical-technical industry on the other hand, if applicable.

Via the Medical Chambers more and more MDs have an individual on-line-CME-credit-account helping them to respond to the legal need of appropriate evidence of CME participation.

There is a central server-technology applied (and working out quite well) since October 2005 to allocate – via a barcode-system - the electronically registered CME-credits of a MD from any congress site throughout Germany to the individual on-line-CME-credit-account with the Medical Chamber responsible for the individual MD.

Whilst from the European point of view there is still no sole national organisation for CME/CPD in Germany, CME-Credits given by EACCME are usually fully accepted by the Medical Chambers of the States within Germany along with the German Federal Medical Association.

Continuing education activities implemented abroad are recognized if they correspond to the requirements of the Medical Association Regulation. The need for prior recognition can be dispensed with.

If the CME participation is lacking or incomplete, MDs in offices are facing strict financial sanctions (fees reductions) and withdrawal of licence after two years.



Greece

CME compulsory: YES (but not applied)

Name of the CME competent authority: The Panhellenic Medical Association (PHMA)

Website: www.pis.gr

Credit points requirements: 100 hours/5 years

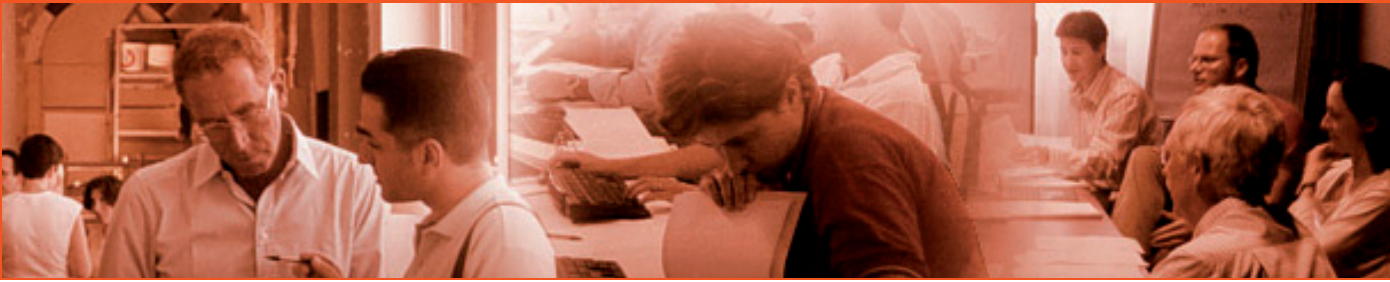
CME in the format of e-learning accepted: NO

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

CME is mandatory in Greece since 1983 for all doctors registered in the National health Service system but not yet fully implemented. The Panhellenic Medical Association (PHMA) is responsible for CME accreditation and participates in the UEMS EACCME system since 2004. It follows the UEMS EACCME criteria for the international accreditation of CME activities. The whole accreditation process is under revision involving the medical societies, medical schools and National Health Service hospitals.

It does not accept CME credits for the participation of Greek doctors in e-learning CME activities.





Hungary

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: The Association of Hungarian Medical Society – MOTESZ

Website: www.motesz.hu

Credit points requirements: 250 CME credits/5 years

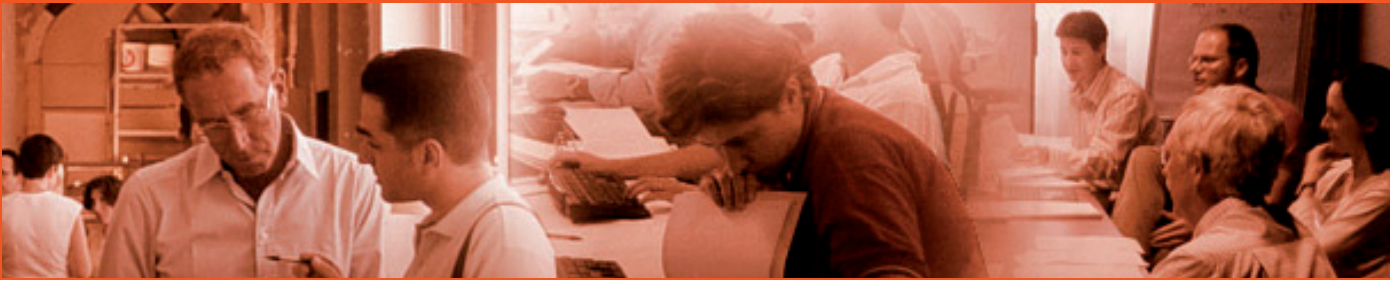
CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

The Association of Hungarian Medical Society - the MOTESZ was established in 1966. It is responsible for the 'protection and improvement of the standards of continuous medical education'. A Regulation making CME mandatory was released in 1999 and updated in 2003. The MOTESZ is in charge of the accreditation of CME activities, working closely with the scientific societies. Doctors are required to collect 250 CME credits over 5 years.

The MOTESZ does participate in the UEMS EACCME system. It accepts credits gained through the participation of Hungarian doctors in CME e-learning activities.





Ireland

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Website: www.rcpi.ie

Credit points requirements: 250 CME points/5 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: NO

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

The **Medical Practitioners Act 2007** indicates that CME will be compulsory for all doctors who have completed their training. The CME service is provided free to Fellows and Collegiate Members of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, and its Faculties and Institute who are in good standing. Physicians who are not affiliated to this College or its constituent bodies are subject to an annual fee.

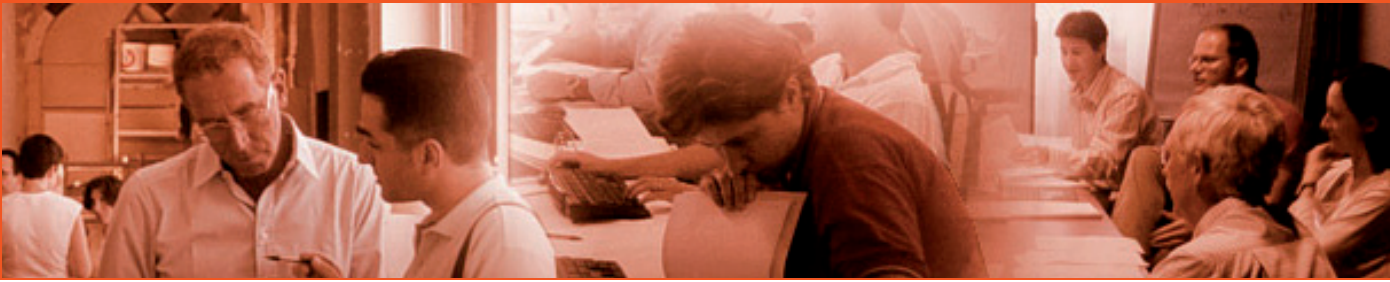
Each doctor should keep a personal CME folder as well as maintaining the diary. The College undertakes an annual audit of a stratified random sample of 10% of CME returns and those selected for audit are required to produce documentation in support of their CME record.

Each doctor should keep details of:

- Internal meetings/conferences/workshops/courses attended with certificates of attendance or a copy of the attendance register where appropriate
 - External meetings- certificates of attendance/registration receipts/scientific programmes are required
 - Personal learning - a record of time spent
 - Research, examining, postgraduate training - a record of time spent on each activity
- If a doctor who is audited cannot produce confirmatory documentation of his/her CME record, a certificate of compliance with CME will not be issued by the College until satisfactory evidence of CME activity is forthcoming.

Each doctor should keep a personal CME folder as well as maintaining the diary. The College undertakes an annual audit of a stratified random sample of 10% of CME returns and those selected for audit are required to produce documentation in support of their CME record.





Italy

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority:

Committee under the National Health Ministry

In addition: 21 Regional CME Committees

Website: www.ministeriosalute.it

Credit points requirements: 150 CME credits/3 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted NO

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: NO

The Italian Health Ministry started a mandatory system for all healthcare professionals in 2002. A special national Committee controls the CME providers and has defined the accreditation criteria.

Healthcare professionals are required to collect 50 CME credits per year and providing evidence of their CME activities every three 3 years (150 credits/3 years)

Up to now Providers have been accredited for each single CME program.

From 2010 they will be accredited on a 2-4 year basis.

National CME providers have to apply directly on the Health Ministry website and pay a fee. Their program can be used nationwide.

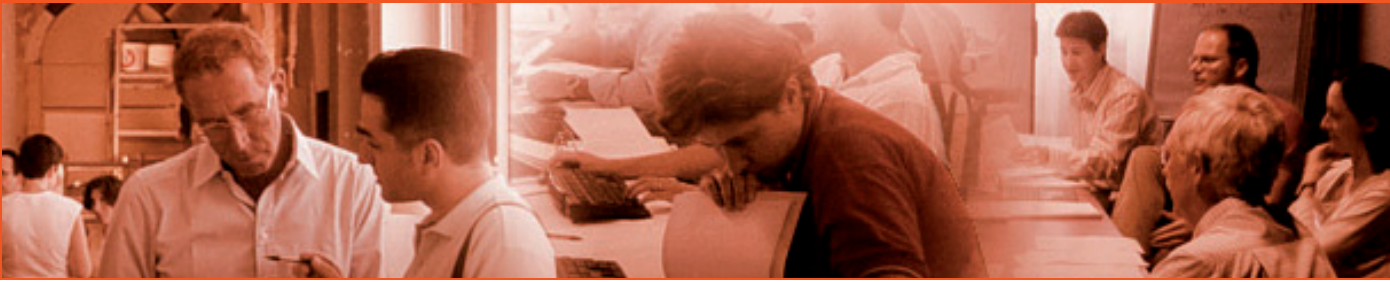
Regional Providers have to apply to the Regional Committees. Their program can be used at regional level.

CME credits (both National and Regional) are valid nationwide.

At the moment, the Italian CME Accreditation authority (Health Ministry) does not participate in the EACCME system because EACCME and the Italian Accreditation authority use different accreditation criteria. Therefore there is no automatic mutual recognition but the Authority accepts that up to 50% of the CME credits can be obtained through the participation of Italian health professionals in accredited CME activities in other EU countries, the USA, Canada or Australia.

At present Italian CME Accreditation authority does not recognize e-learning or distance learning except for a few programmes prepared by State Agencies, however, this will change in 2010.





Latvia

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: The Association of Physicians of Latvia

Website: www.arstubiedriba.lv

Credit points requirements: 250 CME credits/5 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

The Association of Physicians of Latvia has elaborated a system for collecting CME credit points. The relevant professional societies involved in the field of oncology are the Latvian Radiology Association and the Latvian Therapeutic Radiology Association for radiation oncologists and the Latvian Oncology Association for the medical oncologists.

Every physician has to gain 250 credit points during the 5-year period or 50 points per year. Credit points can be collected through their participation in the following activities: attending educational courses or training, preparing presentations, or participating in conferences or congresses. The Latvian CME authority accepts CME credits gained through physicians' participation in accredited e-learning activities.

However, so far there has not been CME courses organized in Latvia that are dedicated to oncologists.

Latvia supports the UEMS EACCME system of mutual recognition of CME credits. However, with the exception of a few chemotherapists participating in international clinical trials, it seems that Latvian oncologists do not participate much in international CME events mainly due to the language barrier.





Lithuania

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania

The State Health Care Accreditation Agency at the Ministry of Health is responsible for assessing CME certificates to acquire demanding CME hours (credits)

Website: www.sam.lt , www.vaspvt.gov.lt

Credit points requirements: 120 CME hours/ 5 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: NO

The State Health Care Accreditation Agency at the Ministry of Health is responsible for assessing of CME certificates to acquire demanding CME hours (credits). Continuing medical education was made mandatory by law since 1998 and through the main order of the Ministry of Health N 132 published in 2002 (subsequently amended in 2008).

It is mandatory to collect at least 120 CME hours every five years. The accepted CME activities are participation in courses and conferences in Lithuania and abroad also personal self learning such as giving lectures or publications in special scientific medical Journals (no more than 72 CME hours from demanding 120 CME hours); it is allowed to collect up to 24 CME hours in other field than medicine (e.g. finance, economy, sociology, law, etc.), but it is counted only 1/3 of value indicated in the certificate.

E-learning CME activities are accepted and are calculated on the same level.

There are no ongoing discussions with the EACCME for the automatic recognition of EACCME accredited events taking place outside Lithuania.





Malta

CME compulsory: NO

Name of the CME competent authority:

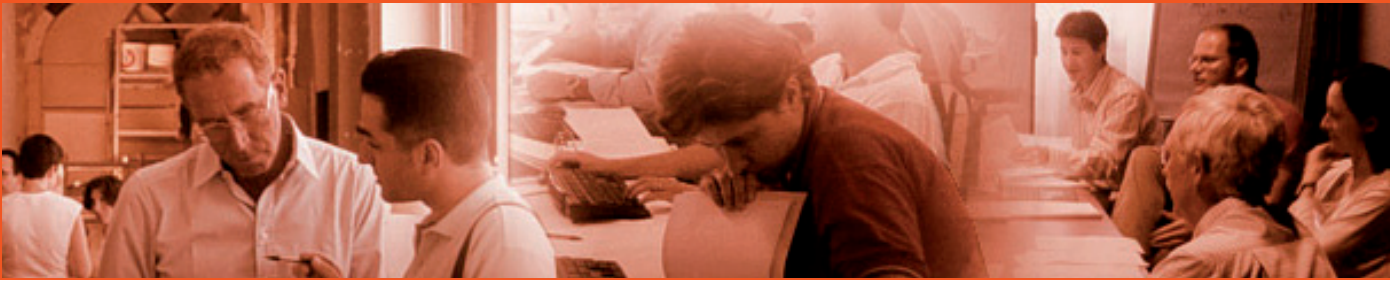
Website: www.mam.org.mt

Credit points requirements:

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: ?

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES





The Netherlands

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG)

Website: <http://knmg.artsennet.nl>

Credit points requirements: 40 CME credits/ year

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

The 35 professional societies in the recognised specialities and the 3 Registration Committees (Medical Specialists Registration Committee, the Social Medicine Physicians Registration Committee, the General Practitioners and Nursing Home Physicians Registration Committee) have been brought together since 2002 under the auspices of the Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) to develop a harmonised system of accreditation of continuing medical education and awarding of credits.

An agreement was reached to establish a harmonised system of accreditation of continuing education activities with **mutual recognition of credits within the 3 groups of specialities** although accreditation remains the responsibility of the separate professional societies.

Physicians are required to obtain 40 credit hours per year over 5 years, 16 hours of patient related work per week, and participation in the professional societies' visitation programs.

In July 2004, an assessment framework for the accreditation of continuing education meetings was adopted by the Accreditation Consultation Body of the Royal Dutch Medical Association.

This assessment framework applies only to continuing medical education events, not to e-learning or individual education activities (reading or writing a scientific paper). The scientific societies in the separate specialties determine for their own specialty to what extent CME credits are awarded to these other forms of educational activities.

In July 2009, a new framework was adopted for the modernization of CME rules within which a competence-oriented education is enshrined. This framework along will be approved by the Minister of Health in the autumn 2009.





Poland

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: Polish (Supreme) Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and regional chambers of physicians and dentists

Website: www.nil.org.pl

Credit points requirements: 200 CME credits/4 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

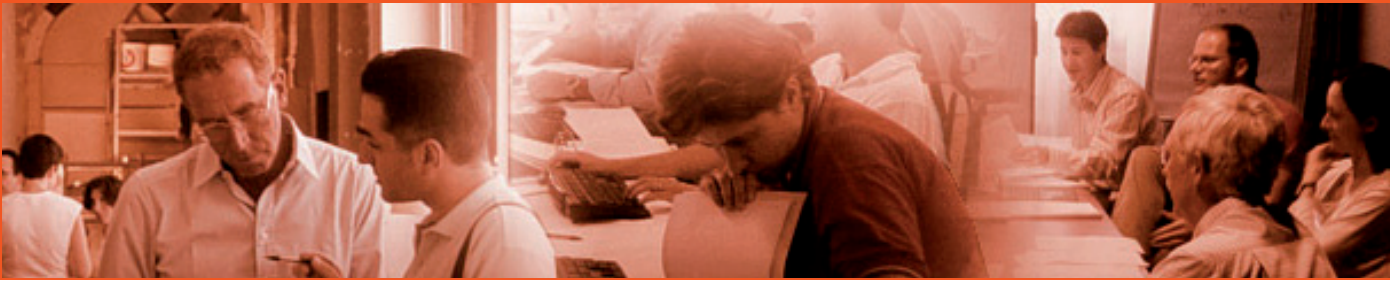
By virtue of the Code of Medical Ethics and the law on the professions of a physician and a dentist, each physician is obliged to acquire new skills and improve professional qualifications. Until 2004 the basis for meeting this obligation through self-education and participation in various forms of post-graduate education were laid down in a Resolution of the Supreme Medical Council. Since 2004 a regulation of the Minister of Health on the forms of fulfilling the requirement of continuous professional development by physicians and dentists is in force.

Physicians are required to collect 200 CME points every four years. In November 2008, physicians in Poland were required for the first time to submit evidence of their participation in CME activities.

Poland participates in the UEMS EACCME system. The points from abroad may be accredited according to the Polish regulations - i.e. 1 hour is equal to 1CME point.

On-line CME activities are considered as valid to collect CME credits. A certificate issued by the provider of the e-learning activity is required.





Portugal

CME compulsory: NO

Name of the CME competent authority: Portuguese Medical Association (Ordem Dos Medicos)

Website: www.ordemosmedicos.pt

Credit points requirements: NO

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: NO

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: NO

The Portuguese Medical Association is the authority responsible for CME in Portugal. CME is not mandatory in Portugal. For the moment, there are no rules or guidelines on CME in Portugal. CME is considered as one way of reaching high quality medical practice and, like in other countries, are included in their ethical obligations.





Romania

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: The Romanian Physicians Board

Website: www.cmr.ro

Credit points requirements: 200 CME credits/5 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: NO

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

The Romanian Physicians Board (Colegiul Medicilor din Romania (CMR)) is in charge of CME rules in Romania. CME is compulsory. The Romanian Physicians Board participates in the UEMS EACCME system.

Doctors have to present that they have collected every 200 CME points over 5 years (min. 40 CME points / year). Of which:

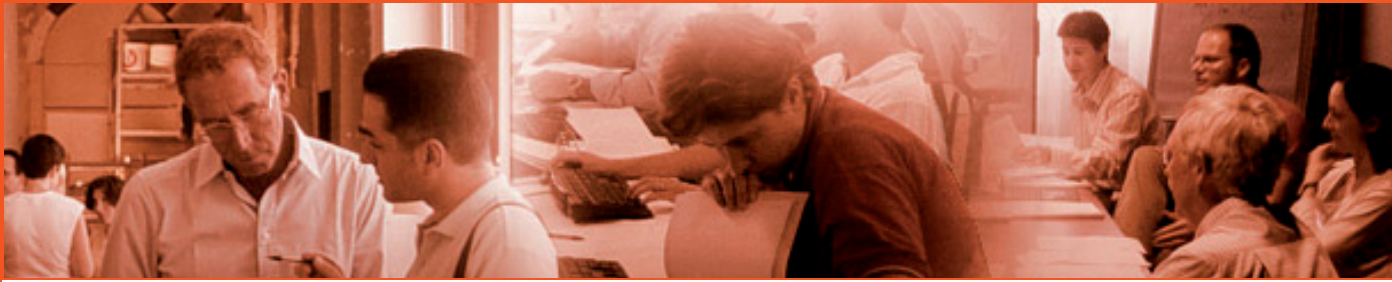
- Max. 1/3 of these points is allowed to be out of other disciplines than their own expertise
- Min. 1/3 of these has to be achieved from attending courses or conference

Those medics who are already in the age of pension but would like to continue practicing, applies the same rule. When applying for extension of their work permit they have to show the achieved 40 points / year

Those who do not reach the required number of points within the 5 years will be suspended.

No eLearning or Online Education accreditation accepted so far.





Slovakia

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: The Slovak Accreditation Council for CME (SACCME)

Website: www.saccme.sk

Credit points requirements: 250 CME credits/5 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

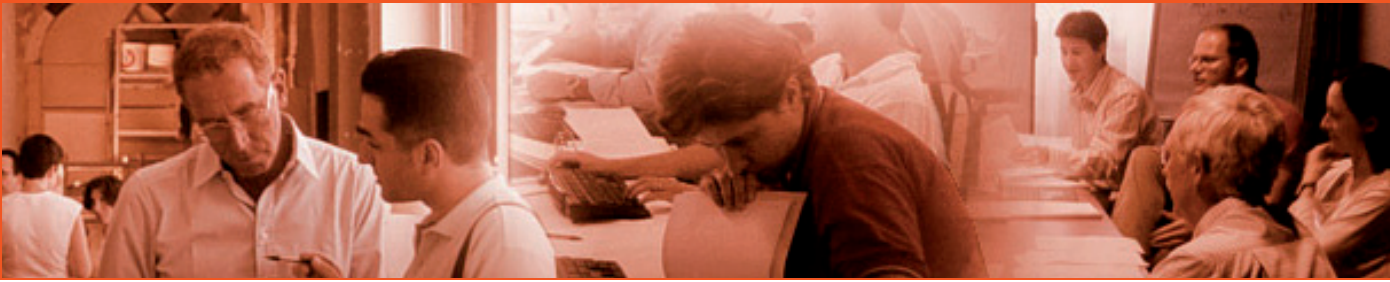
CME/CPD in Slovakia is regulated by Decrees of Slovak Government on Health Service Employees and their Further Education. CME is anchored in the document Governmental Senter MAT03/SK/9/1 Regulation SR 213/2004 for postgraduate (further) education of health service employees.

This Regulation defines the components of continuing education as follows:

Continuing education should be in 5 year cycles and involves:

- Non supervised personal learning activities in the area of the specialization - discipline;
- Performance of a practice within the discipline;
- Attendance at courses, eventually individual training activities organized by training Institutions, which is at minimum one time during one cycle obligatory;
- Scientific meetings organized in co-operation with educational institutions;
- Study stays;
- Professionally oriented meetings of local, regional and international character;
- Lecturing including pedagogical activities;
- Publications;
- Scientific research.

The Slovak Accreditation Council for CME (SACCME) was established based on mutual agreement among statutory representatives of Slovak Medical University, Association of Medical Schools, Slovak Medical Association, Slovak Medical Chamber, and Association of Private Physicians as non governmental non for profit organisations in the spring of 2004. The Institution is responsible for unification and actualisation of criteria for CME.



SACCME guidelines:

250 credits for 5 years. From 250 credits there are 150 allocated for external officially planned medical education (CME) and 100 credit for personal study (CPD). In the end of the period data on physicians' credits are transferred by SACCME to the Slovak Medical Chamber.

E-learning is credited the same way like the autodidactic tests and is not included under "personal study". For 80 - 100% correct answers doctors collect 2 credits, for 60 - 80 % they have 1 credit. 100 credits per 5 years is automatically allocated to doctors performing every day practice.

In 2006, the UEMS EACCME signed an agreement with the Slovak Accreditation Council for CME.



Slovenia

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: Medical Chamber of Slovenia

Website: <http://www.zzs-mcs.si>

Credit points requirements: 75 CME credits/7 years

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

CME is mandatory in Slovenia. The Medical Chamber of Slovenia has developed an application process for granting a licence to the organizer of a professional meeting and awarding credit points for continuous postgraduate in-service training.

The following types of activities are considered eligible to collect CME credits points:

- lecture or passive participation in the expert meeting
- publication of professional contribution in a technical journal, proceedings, book or monograph
- multimedia programs,
- studies literature written answers to test questions
- study trips and visits,
- participation in a particular professional class

The Medical Chamber of Slovenia signed an agreement with EACCME.

E-learning is accredited and accepted by the Medical Chamber of Slovenia.





Spain

CME compulsory: NO

Name of the CME competent authority: Spanish Accreditation Council for CME (SACCME)

Website: www.cgcom.es/seaformec

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

An agreement on continuing medical education was signed in 2002 between the Ministries of Health and Education and the Spanish Health professionals associations.

The agreement entrusted Health Professional Associations with the capacity of implementing specific Continuing accreditation systems, under the supervision of the Ministries of Health and Education.

The Spanish Commission of Continuing Education (CE) is the main national body responsible for continuing education of the health profession. It is decentralised into 17 Regional Commissions for continuing education involving the 17 regional governments. The National Commission of CE is in charge of accrediting national CME events while the Regional Commissions accredits regional events.

1. In addition, the Spanish Accreditation Council for CME (SACCME) was created in 2003 with the following partners: the Spanish Medical Association, the Spanish Federation of Scientific Medical Societies, The Spanish Assembly of Deans of Medical Schools and the Spanish Council of Medical Specialties. SEAFORMEC (Sistema Español de Acreditación de la Formación Médica Continuada) is the Spanish name while SACCME (Spanish Accreditation Council for CME) is the international one.

2. There are no recommendations/guidelines for collecting annually certain number of credits in Spain. The CME credits are currently serving for professional careers purposes (salary of doctors employed by public health services)

SACCME is accrediting only continuing education activities for physicians. The Spanish Commission of Continuing Education and the Regional Commissions are accrediting activities addressed to all health professionals.

Both SACCME and the Spanish Commission of CE follow the process for accreditation and evaluate activities on the same quality criteria. They both accredit on-site events and e-learning activities.

SACCME participates in the EACCME system.





Sweden

CME compulsory: NO

Name of the CME competent authority: The Institute for Professional Development of Physicians in Sweden (IPULS)

Website: www.ipuls.se

Credit points recommendations : 10 days/year

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: NO

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: YES

IPULS - Institute for the Professional Development of Physicians in Sweden

There are no general guidelines on CME neither any recommendation on the number of CME credits to be collected by the health professionals.

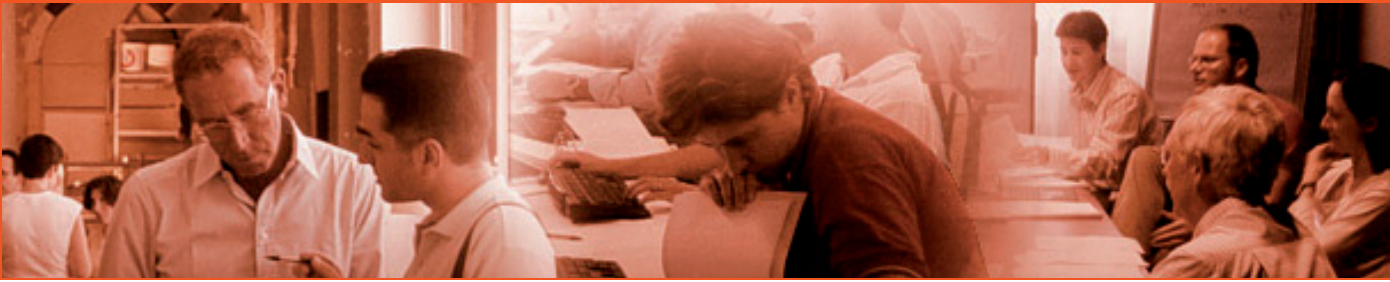
The IPULS institute was established in 2002 to support the continuing professional development and postgraduate education of physicians in Sweden. It is owned by three pivotal organisations in Swedish healthcare - The Swedish Society of Medicine, The Swedish Medical Association and The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. The shared ownership ensures that different perspectives are taken into consideration regarding the continuing professional development of physicians.

The institute's task is to review and certify educational activities of relevance to health professionals, according to defined quality criteria that are in line with the EACCME criteria. Educational courses approved by the institute are brought together and published in "Physicians' online educational catalogue" which is readily accessible and searchable on the institute's website (www.ipuls.se). However, a minority of the courses in oncology are following the IPULS certification process and courses organisers tend to seek accreditation from their professional societies.

CME in the form of e-learning is not used in Sweden.

Physicians' online educational catalogue

The catalogue is easily searchable and offers the physician a convenient way of finding the educational courses he/she needs for his/her professional development. With its comprehensive basis the catalogue facilitates comparison of educational alternatives and it is also an efficient tool for long-term planning.



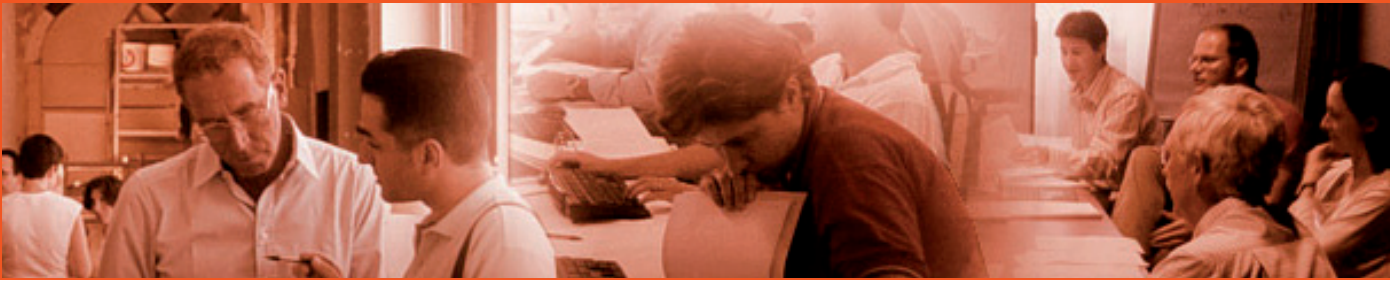
The catalogue is continuously updated with IPULS-approved courses, both medical and occupational. They all contain a full description of contents and state which needs the course fulfils, as well as the outcome participants may expect to achieve.

The review process

All courses are described by the producer according to a set of common standards. These include items such as purpose, specification of target group, specific goals for the participant, programme, learning methods used, implementation of acquired competence and financing. Part of this information is compulsory.

The descriptions of the courses are reviewed internally at IPULS' office and externally by the specialists from the Board of Inspectors. The criteria for approval used in the evaluation process are available on IPULS' website.

The entire review process takes 2-3 weeks after which the course is included in the online catalogue.



United Kingdom

CME compulsory: YES

Name of the CME competent authority: The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

Website: <http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk>

Credit points requirements: 50 CME credits/year

CME in the format of e-learning accepted: YES

Participates in the UEMS EACCME system: NO

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is the preferred term in the UK rather than CME as physicians may perform many roles that indirectly affect the quality of healthcare such as teaching, research and management.

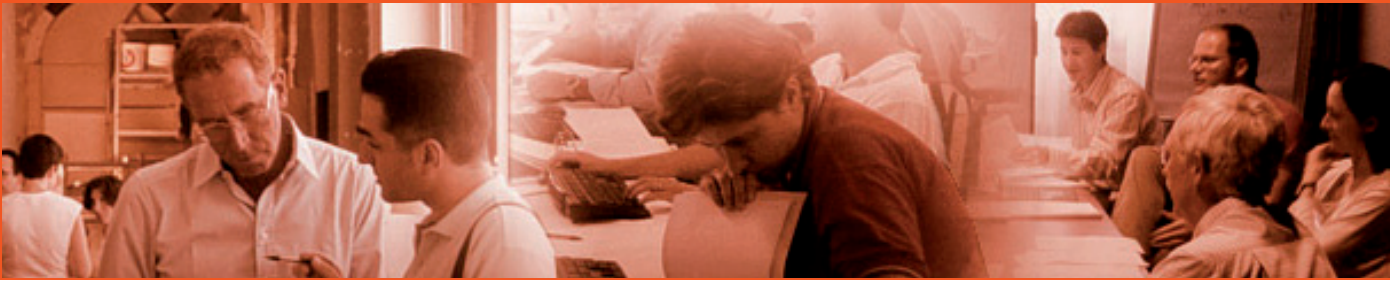
The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges is responsible for continuous professional development (CPD).

The Academy has the remit to engage with the General Medical Council to develop a common approach on CPD i.e. ensure consistent standards and requirements across all colleges and faculties. The General Medical Council is the national regulatory authority which has a statutory role to promote high standards and co-ordinate all aspects of medical education. This includes continuing professional development.

In June 2009, the General Medical Council adopted new rules that will be implemented in the autumn 2009. It seeks to integrate relicensing and recertification into a single process. Information that doctors will need to provide for relicensing and recertification will, to a large extent, be the same. It will be information drawn by doctors from their actual practice, from feedback from patients (where applicable) and colleagues, and from participation in CPD. This information will feed into doctors' annual appraisal. The outputs of appraisal will lead to a single recommendation to the GMC from their Responsible Officer normally every five years, about the doctor's suitability for revalidation. This single recommendation will cover both relicensing and, for doctors on the GP register or the specialist register, recertification.

The Academy adopted the principle of complete reciprocity between Colleges for all approved activities.

More than 20 Colleges are now members of the Academy including the three Royal College of Physicians (RCP of London, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, RCP of Edinburgh).



The Royal College of Physicians has established an accreditation process for external CPD events for post training physicians. External events are defined as educational events which are targeted towards physicians from multiple hospitals. They may be regional, national or international. International events require approval from the CPD Director of one of the three Royal Colleges of Physicians.

CPD rules for physicians:

Minimum 50 educational credits/year, of which 25 must be external.

General distance learning can account for a maximum of 5 external CPD credits provided that the material includes either an assessment of learning or of time spent.

Over 5 years the minimum requirements for external non-clinical credits is 25. (non clinical credits concern educational events that are not directly related to clinical issues e.g. management courses, ethical and legal issues, appraisal training, etc.)

The Academy of Royal Colleges adopted in May 2007 rules concerning distance learning for all medical specialties in the UK. Distance learning can be defined as providing education through print or electronic communications media to physicians engaged in learning at a time and place of their own choosing and at a distance from a presenter, facilitator or tutor. It includes 15 approval criteria.

This session will address a number of practical tools facilitating the accreditation processes. On one hand, it will provide concrete examples from CME national authorities which have developed dedicated tools for CME accreditation. On the other hand, it will also look at services provided by European CME accreditation Boards to help health professionals keep track of accredited European CME activities in their discipline and create personal portfolios/accounts with their CME activities. This session will address the issue of the accreditation of e-learning CME activities under development in a growing number of European countries. CME authorities which accept e-learning as a valid way to collect CME credits will outline what are their views on e-learning, what made them including this type of CME activities on the list of valid activities to collect CME credits and what are the trends in their own country in terms of use and access to accredited e-learning CME materials (e.g. users profile, medical disciplines, etc.) Two accreditation boards will outline their perception, possible issues and challenges in accrediting e-learning material. It will also include an update on the EACCME activities on the European accreditation of e-learning. One CME provider will outline what issues they have encountered in developing e-learning CME programmes and solutions found to smooth processes and obtain accreditation.

