



CME REQUIREMENTS AND OPTIONS FOR MEMBERS

Continuing medical education (CME) is a cornerstone of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and has been a requirement for continuing membership since the founding of this organization in 1947. CME for the family physician is emphasized because the responsibility for providing comprehensive and continuing health care to patients carries with it the responsibility to continue learning. The need to keep abreast of the rapid expansion of medical knowledge necessitates CME.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS

1. **Active members and family physicians eligible for supporting membership must complete 150 credits of CME every three years. Of these:**

- A. A minimum of 25 credits must be obtained from live learning activities*, AND
- B. A minimum of 75 must be Prescribed credit.

The remaining credits may be Prescribed, Elective, or a combination of both.

**An exemption to the 25 live activity credits will be allowed for AAFP Active members or family physicians eligible for supporting membership who submit evidence that they are providing medical care in a missionary/charitable practice setting in an overseas practice for more than a 12-month period.*

2. **Each AAFP Constituent Chapter has the option of requiring its members to obtain a portion of their CME credit from that chapter's produced or approved activities.** In such case, no more than 25 credits may be required from these activities. It is the responsibility of each chapter to inform the CME Accreditation Department which activities should be designated in the CME database as chapter- approved.

II. PRESCRIBED AND ELECTIVE CREDIT

1. A CME activity may be approved for Prescribed credit if the activity
 - A. Is intended primarily for physicians,
 - B. Has content directly related to patient care or its delivery, or to selected non-clinical topics including but not limited to:
 - i. Teaching, ethical, medical-legal and/or social responsibilities of the family physician.
 - ii. Faculty development
 - iii. Professional and/or academic leadership
 - iv. Physician-patient relations
 - v. Communications
 - C. Has been planned and developed with input from an AAFP Active or Life Member.

2. A CME activity may be approved for Elective credit if the activity
 - A. Has content of interest to physicians, and
 - B. Is not necessarily directly related to patient care or its delivery but will improve a physician's professional ability.AAFP member input is not required for Elective credit.

III. TYPES OF CME ACTIVITIES

Members may earn CME credit via a wide range of educational opportunities. Options and limitations are summarized in the following table. Additional detail on each of the items follows.

Activity Type	Credit Designation Possible		Limitations
	Prescribed	Elective	
<i>AAFP Approved CME Activities</i>			
Live (Group)	X	X	
Enduring Material	X	X	
Journal	X	X	
Performance Improvement	X		20 per activity
Point of Care	X		0.5 per search or 60 per 3-yr cycle

<i>Self Report CME Credit Activities</i>	Prescribed	Elective	
AMA PRA Category 1 Credit Activities		X	
AOA CME		X	
CFPC Accredited Activities	X		
ABFM or AOA Certification		X	25 per 3-yr cycle
Advanced Training	X		25 per 3-yr cycle
Teaching	X		60 per 3-yr cycle
Developing EB-CME Presentation	X		60 per 3-yr cycle
Published Research	X		15 / paper or 45 / 3-yr cycle
Research Participation	X		30 per 3-yr cycle
Scholarly Work: Scientific Paper Presentation		X	10 / paper or 30 / 3-yr cycle
Preparation/Presentation of Scientific Exhibit		X	15 per 3-yr cycle
Medical Writing		X	30 per 3-yr cycle
Peer Review of Journal Manuscripts	X		3 per manuscript or 45 per 3-yr cycle
Writing Questions for Standardized Tests/Examinations	X		30 per 3-yr cycle
Professional Enrichment (Independent/Informal)		X	25 per 3-yr cycle

The following learning activities are not eligible for AAFP CME credit:

- CME activities produced by a commercial interest, i.e., any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. This does not include providers of clinical service directly to patients.
- Enduring materials with expired term of approval.
- Activities on therapies determined by COCPD as dangerous or proven ineffective.

IV. GLOSSARY OF AAFP CME TERMINOLOGY

Types of CME Activities

Live Activities are conferences or activities for which an application has been submitted and approved for Prescribed and/or Elective credit.

Enduring Materials are independent learning materials designed primarily as self-study activities, for which an application has been submitted and approved for Prescribed and/or Elective credit.

Journals are defined as regularly published collections of articles intended for medical professionals. These may be used for CME credit when an application has been submitted and approved for AAFP Prescribed and/or Elective credit.

Performance Improvement (PI) CME activities are structured improvement projects that have been approved for AAFP CME credit. Five Prescribed credits can be awarded for the completion of each of the three stages. Completion of the full PI cycle is not required. Physicians completing, in sequence, all three stages of a structured PI activity may receive an additional five AAFP Prescribed credits, for a maximum of twenty credits. This credit allocation acknowledges the best learning is associated with completing a well-conceived PI activity.

Formal Point of Care activities are structured systems for tracking searches and use of information at the point of care. Activities that are approved for AAFP CME credit may be claimed for 0.5 credits per search.

Credit allowed upon completion of each activity as designated by AAFP.

Credit from Organizations Other Than AAFP

AMA PRA Category 1 Credit -- Educational activities that have been designated as Category 1 Credit™ for the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award and that have not been reviewed for AAFP Prescribed credit may be self-reported by members as AMA Category 1 Credit™. This counts toward re-election as AAFP Elective credit.

AOA CME -- Educational activities that have been approved for credit by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and that have not been reviewed for AAFP Prescribed credit may be self-reported by members as AOA credit.

CFPC Accredited Activities -- Activities approved by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) for Mainpro-M1, Mainpro-M2, or Mainpro-C CME credits may be claimed as Prescribed credit.

ABFM and AOA Certification -- Credit may be claimed for certification, recertification, and maintenance of certification through the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Members may self report this credit up to a limit of 25 Elective credits per 3-year cycle.

Advanced Training

Advanced Training -- Completion of a medically-related master's degree or a fellowship/mini-fellowship program beyond Family Medicine residency training may be self-reported for credit. Members may self report this credit up to a limit of 25 Prescribed credits per 3-year cycle.

Credit For Teaching

Teaching includes instruction of health professions learners in formal individual (e.g., preceptorships) or live educational formats. Members may self report this credit, up to a limit of 60 Prescribed credits per 3-year cycle.

Developing an EB CME Presentation -- Credit may be claimed by CME faculty/authors that develop activities approved for AAFP evidence-based CME (EB CME) designation. Members may receive the amount of credit awarded to learners for the activity as teaching credit. Members may self report this credit, up to a limit of 60 Prescribed credits per 3-year cycle.

Credit for Research

Published Research -- Publishing original scientific or socioeconomic research pertaining to patient care, public or community health, published in a state or national refereed journal may be claimed as CME. Members may self report up to 15 Prescribed credits per paper, with a limit of 45 Prescribed credits per 3-year cycle.

Research Participation -- Participation in clinical research studies may also be claimed for CME credit. Participation may include such activities as writing a grant to secure funding for a research project or work as a research investigator or co-investigator. Members may self report this credit up to a limit of 30 Prescribed credits per 3-year cycle.

***Participation in research studies conducted by pharmaceutical companies, device manufacturers, or other proprietary entities or in industry-sponsored drug trials does not qualify for AAFP credit.**

Credit for Scholarly Work

Scientific Paper -- Presentation or publication of an original scientific or socioeconomic paper pertaining to medical care, at AAFP, AAFP constituent chapter, or other medical society level may be self-reported for credit. Members may self-report this credit, up to a limit of 10 Prescribed credits per paper, or up to a limit of 30 Prescribed credits per 3-year cycle.

Scientific Exhibit -- Preparation and presentation of a scientific medical exhibit at a meeting produced by AAFP or an AAFP constituent chapter may be self-reported for credit. Members may self-report this credit up to a limit of 15 Elective credits per 3-year cycle.

Credit for Writing or Editing

Medical writing -- Writing targeted to a physician and/or other health professional audience may be claimed as CME. Members may self report this credit up to a limit of 30 Elective credits per 3-year cycle.

Peer review -- Review of manuscripts for journals listed in *Medline* may be claimed for up to 3 credits per manuscript. Members may self report this credit up to a limit of 45 Prescribed credits per 3-year cycle.

Test item writing -- Contribution to the development of high stakes examinations, or certain self-assessment modules, by researching, drafting and defending potential questions. The questions must be developed for examinations given by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), or a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), or for peer-reviewed, published, self-assessment educational activities from a national medical specialty society. The process for this activity must document guidance for the physician question writers on how to use evidence for writing quality questions. The assignments must be at a depth and scope that require a review of the literature and knowledge of the evidence base for the questions. Physician question writers should document their review of evidence-based literature. The physician question writers must personally participate in a group peer review of the questions. The question writers should revise their questions, when necessary, based on

feedback from the peer group. Members may self report this credit up to a limit of 30 Prescribed credits per 3-year cycle.

Enrichment Credit

Personal enrichment activities -- Other medical educational experiences and activities, such as independent exam preparation and informal self-learning activities. These activities may or may not be documented, are not AAFP-approved or produced by an ACCME accredited institution or organization, but are of a nature of personal enrichment to the family physician. Members may self report this credit up to a limit of 25 Elective credits per 3-year cycle.

August 2009