

The National Task Force on CME Provider/Industry Collaboration is committed to fostering, furthering and enhancing quality Continuing Medical Education (CME).

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THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CME CREDIT SYSTEM

The American Medical Association (AMA) established the Physician Recognition Award (PRA) in 1968 to recognize physicians who devoted 50 or more hours a year to continuing medical education (CME). The PRA, then and now, aspires to encourage practicing physicians to keep up with medical advances and continue to improve care to their patients – both a professional responsibility and an ethical imperative affirmed in the AMA's Code of Ethics.

The AMA CME Credit system was developed to describe (CME) activities that met defined standards necessary to count towards the requirements of the AMA PRA. Over the years it has evolved significantly under the direction of the AMA Council on Medical Education. The day-to-day responsibility for educating stakeholders, consumers of credit, providers and physicians and overseeing compliance falls within the purview of the AMA Division of Continuing Physician Professional Development.

The evolution of the AMA CME Credit system has undergone many changes, including the change in the metric from "hours" to "credits," and now includes two Categories:

AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™

- Certified activities by state-accredited or nationally-accredited providers in the US¹ include: live activities, enduring materials, journal-based CME, test item writing, manuscript review, performance improvement CME (PI CME), and internet point-of-care (PoC). Imbedded in the description of each format are educational requirements that help ensure or increase the educational value of that certified CME format.
- Individual learning activities certified for credit directly by the AMA include: teaching at a live activity certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*, publishing articles, poster presentation, medically-related advanced degrees, American Board of Medical Specialties Board certification, and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education accredited program.

AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™

- Educational activities not certified for Category 1 Credit but claimed for credit by individual physicians. Participation in activities that have not been certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*, include: teaching physicians, residents, medical students or other health professionals, unstructured online searching and learning (i.e., not Internet PoC), reading authoritative medical literature, consultation with peers and medical experts, small group discussions, self assessment activities, medical writing, preceptorship participation, research, and peer review and quality assurance participation.

In the US, the AMA has granted, since 1981, the privilege to designate activities that are planned and implemented in accordance with AMA PRA requirements for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* to organizations accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or by State Medical Societies recognized by the ACCME. Failure to comply with AMA PRA requirements may result in the loss of that privilege regardless of accreditation status.

Equivalency Agreements

- The AMA has equivalency agreements with the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).
- AMA PRA is accepted by multiple entities as proof of participation in CME. Most state licensing boards and hospitals will accept AMA PRA or the AMA approved application as proof of having met CME requirements.
- The AMA has an active international program with international relationships based on a Global template that include the Union of European Medical Specialists/European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (UEMS/EACCME) since 1999, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons since 2009 and the International Conference Recognition Program. Physicians may earn *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* for participation in select international educational activities.

References:

AMA PRA system home page: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/education-careers/continuing-medical-education/physicians-recognition-award-credit-system.page>?

The Physician's Recognition Award and credit system Information for accredited providers and physicians. 2010 revision: <http://www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/cme/prabooklet.pdf>

Information about the AMA CME Credit system international relationships: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/education-careers/continuing-medical-education/physicians-recognition-award-credit-system/other-ways-earn-ama-pra-category/international-programs.page>

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