

Continuing Medical Education Programme for Practising Doctors who are not taking CME programme for specialists

1. Objective of Continuing Medical Education (CME) for practising doctors

The purpose of **CME for practising doctors** is to encourage practising doctors who are *not taking CME programme for specialists* to keep themselves up-to-date on current developments in medical practice so as to maintain a high professional standard.

2. The Education and Accreditation Committee (E & AC) of the Medical Council has approved a certification programme for CME of practising doctors. This programme is based on a “ Credit Point System ” with credit points awarded for participation in CME activities recognised by the E & AC of the Medical Council.

3. The Credit Point System

3.1 The “ Credit Point System ” awards credit points in the following categories :

- a) Active and Receptive CME
- b) Publications
- c) Self study

3.2 All doctors registered for certification of their CME activities are required to submit proof of attendance, photocopies of published articles, transcripts of courses taken or documentation of self-study programmes, etc. to the E & AC of the Medical Council through CME Programme Administrators.

3.3 CME Point Allocation

- 2 points per hour for active and 1 point per hour for receptive participation in educational activities.
- A maximum of 3 points for a half day programme
- A maximum of 5 points for a whole day programme
- A maximum of 10 points for a programme lasting two or more days.

4 CME Cycle

4.1 Registrant doctors are expected to complete a 3-year cycle period of CME activities.

The cycle starts on 1 October 2001 and 1st Jan. and 1st July of every year.

All newly registered medical practitioners are anticipated and encouraged to register.

4.2 A minimum of 90 credit points has to be accumulated over a 3-year cycle period, and a minimum of 30 credit points per year is required.

4.3 The basic credit point is one point for each hour of participation in CME activities.

4.4 Each CME activity claimed can only be accredited credit points under one single CME category.

5 Criteria for recognising (or approving) CME activities

5.1 Active and receptive CME

This includes activities in which a registered doctor participates and may include the following :

5.11 Active participation as speaker, chairman, panelist, presenter or passive participation as attendant in any accredited activity (2 pts/hr for active and 1 pt/hr for passive CME).

5.12 Participation as teacher / trainer / trainee in formal, non-bedside didactic post-graduate course (2 pts/hr for teacher/trainer and 1 pt/hr for trainee).

5.13 Participation in a hands-on clinical course as trainer or trainee in a hospital or clinic (1 pt/hr up to a maximum of 10 pts).

5.2 Publication

Publication includes papers on public health, clinical and/or academic interest published in professional journals, books and newsletters of professional bodies that have been accredited by the E & AC through CME Programme Accreditors. (2 points/publication)

5.3 Self-study

This includes self-study programmes such as self-assessment programmes accredited by local medical organisations, colleges and overseas professional bodies that have been accredited by the E & AC through CME Programme Accreditors. Credit points of each course will be assessed individually and a maximum of 20 points can be awarded for self-study per year.

5.4 For accreditation by the E & AC, activities such as symposia, conferences, scientific meetings, panel discussions, workshops, etc. need to be organised by professional bodies that have been accredited by the E & AC through CME Programme Accreditors, local or overseas, and conducted by specialists or experts related to the field.

5.5 Upon prior accreditation by the E & AC through CME Programme Accreditors, regularly held activities of doctor-groups with attendance of a minimum of 5 doctors will be recognised as CME activities. These include journal meetings, case presentations, X-ray meetings, clinical pathological meetings, audio-visual viewing sessions and invited talks/presentations.

5.6 Network educational programmes which have received prior approval by accredited professional bodies, organized distance-learning, diploma courses, etc. will be granted credit points upon individual application.

6 Award of Certification of Satisfactory CME Activity

Registrants who have accumulated the required minimum credit points are eligible for the issue of a Certificate to certify that they have achieved a satisfactory level of CME activity over the period of review. Such a certificate can be displayed inside the doctor's office.

7 Use of the title "CME certified"

Registrant doctors who have accumulated the required minimum credit points during a 3-year cycle, i.e. 90 credit points, will be allowed to use the title "CME certified" on their visiting cards.