



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Accredited Continuing Education

In December 2020, ACCME published the Standards for Integrity and Independence Accredited Continuing Education. The term *accredited continuing education (ACE)* replaces continuing medical education to be inclusive of all health professions. *All documents pertaining to educational activities must be modified by January 1, 2022.*

Who is the ACCME?

ACCME is the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and is the organization that sets the standards for the accreditation of all providers of ACE activities.

Who is the AMA?

The American Medical Association helps doctors help patients by uniting physicians nationwide to work on the most important professional and public health issues.

What types of activities qualify for ACE certification?

A wide variety of educational activities qualify for ACE certification, including, but not limited to:

- Lectures and live meetings in which learners are physically or remotely present.
- “Enduring Materials” - activities based on recorded or published content (i.e., printed materials, CD-ROMs, audio CDs, DVDs, Internet presentations).
- Journal Based accredited continuing education activities

For more detailed information, please click the following link:

<https://www.accme.org/faq/what-kind-activity-types-can-be-reported-pars>

What type of accredited continuing education credit do physicians need?

AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ is the most common type of credit physicians need for medical license maintenance. For an activity to be designated for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*, it must be planned by an accredited ACE provider (e.g., SAPS CME).

May a non-US licensed physician be awarded *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*?

Yes. *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* may be awarded to any physician (defined by the AMA as MDs, DOs, or international physicians with equivalent degrees from other countries). The requirements for awarding *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* to US and non-US licensed physicians are the same.

May non-physicians be awarded *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*?

No. Non-physician health professionals and other participants may not be awarded *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. However, accredited ACE providers may issue documentation of participation to non-physicians that states that the activity was certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* may only be awarded to MDs or DOs (or physicians with equivalent degrees from other countries).

How is the amount of credit determined for certified live activities that are not in one-hour increments?

The credit for live activities may be designated in 15 minute or 0.25 credit increments; rounded to the nearest quarter hour. Credit is only designated for the educational portions of an activity, *i.e., time for breaks and lunches is not included when calculating credit.*

What is the difference between Category 1 and Category 2 credit?

According to the American Medical Association *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* activities are:

- Formally planned activities that include documentation of acceptable needs assessment, learning objectives, educational design, an evaluation method, and disclosure.
- Planned and implemented in full compliance with the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support
- Prospectively certified for credit by an ACCME-accredited CME Provider.

Category 2 "self-claim" credits:

- Informally planned physician-initiated activities such as practice-based self-study, consultations with colleagues, teaching, M&M conferences, etc.
- *SAPS CME is not involved with planning, certifying, or tracking Category 2 activities.*

When should the Accreditation Statement be used?

The SAPS CME Accreditation Statement must be used in relevant announcements and activity materials and any document that references the number of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* for which the activity has been designated. Below is the SAPS CME Accreditation Statement for Joint Providers:

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Medical Association of Georgia through the joint providership of Southern Alliance for Physician Specialties CME (SAPS CME) and [Insert Organization Name]. SAPS CME is accredited by the Medical Association of Georgia to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

*The Southern Alliance for Physician Specialties CME designates this live activity for a maximum of _____ **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.*

What is the cost of ACE certification?

The cost of certifying your activity for credit depends on:

- Type of activity (Joint vs. Directly Provided)
- Number of credit hours
- Estimated number of participants/learners
- If you are a member of a SAPS CME Member organization

*****All fees are listed on our website: www.sapscme.org*****

How do I obtain ACE/CE credit for my activity?

To become pre-approved for an ACE activity with SAPS, you must complete and submit the ACE Application/Planning Document

What is the difference between direct, joint, and co-sponsorship?

Direct Providership: If you or a member of your planning committee is a member of one of the SAPS CME Member Organizations, you will be eligible for a direct sponsorship and discounted fees. The member list can be found on our website: www.sapscme.org

Joint Providership: An educational activity that is developed and implemented by two institutions or organizations and only one of the institutions or organizations is accredited by the ACCME. The accredited provider (SAPS CME) must take responsibility for a CME activity when it is presented in cooperation with a non-accredited institution or organization. An illegible company cannot take the role of non-accredited entity in a joint sponsorship relationship.

Co-sponsorship: An ACE activity presented by two or more accredited providers. One institution must take responsibility for the activity.

Why do faculty (speakers, presenters, moderators, activity medical directors, authors, planning committee member, etc.) have to complete an ACE disclosure form?

The ACCME requires CME providers (i.e., SAPS CME) to require everyone in a position to control the content of an educational activity to disclose all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest(s) to prevent potential bias in the educational content. to review the ACCME's definition of 'relevant' financial relationships. <https://accme.org/accreditation-rules/standards-for-integrity-independence-accredited-ce>

Is it okay for a pharmaceutical sales representative to bring in food for a Grand Rounds session?

No, pharmaceutical sales representatives or representatives of medical product/device manufacturers cannot pay directly for the food. However, they can provide an educational grant to your organization in support of the food costs.

A pharmaceutical company has offered to provide an educational grant to cover the speaker's honorarium, but they will "take care of the speaker's travel." Is this okay?

No, the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support require that all support from ineligible companies be provided to the accredited provider in the form of an educational grant.

Can a pharmaceutical company choose who will speak at my department's meeting?

No, it is up to the Activity Medical Director to select appropriate topics and speakers for their ACE activity based upon the target audience's educational needs. The Activity Medical Director can request a Speaker List from a pharmaceutical representative and then select an appropriate speaker and topic from the list. The Activity Medical Director should then communicate with the chosen speaker and delineate the learning objectives he/she would like the speaker to address.

A pharmaceutical company has provided an educational grant to support a grand rounds session that is certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit. The company has signed a grant agreement to cover the meeting expenses; one of the sales representatives wants to give a short presentation on the company's newest product at the beginning (or end) of the session...is this allowed?

No, Joint providers cannot allow representatives of Commercial Interests to engage in sales or promotional activities while in the space or place of the ACE activity.