

Accreditation of CME Events

Island Health staff frequently contact the Medical Staff Engagement and Development's CPD office to find out how to "get CME (or CPD) credits" for training and other activities in their area that involve physicians. This primer is designed to provide an overview of the processes by which accreditation of events occurs and how physicians can claim credits for their CPD activities.

What are physicians' requirements to participate in CME/CPD?

As a condition of licensure in BC, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the regulatory College) requires that all family physicians and specialists need to document a minimum number of credits each year with their respective certifying College. Certifying colleges are the College of Family Physicians of Canada for family physicians and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for specialists. **Each physician is individually responsible for logging his or her credits online in their personalized database on their certifying College's web site.**

What types of activities qualify for CME/CPD credits?

Credits can be earned for participation in various types of activities including group learning, self-learning and other activities (e.g. assessment activities.) Group learning includes activities such as rounds, journal clubs, workshops, conferences, etc. These and other formal activities involving knowledge and practice assessment can be reviewed and formally approved as "accredited" by an Accredited CPD provider.

What are "accredited activities"?

Accredited activities must meet specific criteria and can usually be claimed for a higher number of credits than non-accredited/non-certified activities. The College of Family Physicians of Canada has recently changed its Mainpro CPD program with *Mainpro+* and is now using the term "certified" rather than "accredited" to designate approved activities.

What is meant by an "Accredited CPD Provider"?

An accredited CPD provider is an organization that can accredit events according criteria set out by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's Maintenance of Certification Program (MOC) or the College of Family Physicians of Canada's *Mainpro+* Program. Island Health is NOT an Accredited CPD Provider which means it cannot accredit CPD activities. To have an activity accredited an application must be made to an appropriate accredited CPD provider, generally a professional society or university. Applications must be made at least 6 weeks in advance of the event. The CPD office can provide guidance on the application process.

What about Quality and Patient Safety activities?

Physicians participating in some Island Health based activities (specifically those involving quality and patient safety) may be able to claim credits for self-learning. Any activity that a physician undertakes that results in learning that changes their practice, allows an opportunity to claim credit for that activity. To do so a physician must provide adequate documentation regarding the outcome of the learning by entering it in their certifying College's online database. For more information please see [How to Claim Self-Learning Credits](#) (for specialists, see page 1 and for family physicians, see page 2).

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What about Hospital rounds?

Physicians who attend **recurring** group learning events such as hospital or health authority rounds can claim credits for accredited activity **if the physician group has arranged to have their series accredited. For rounds attended by specialists this can be done through a self-approval process**—see [Royal College - CPD Accreditation: Rounds, journal clubs and small groups](#). If a group learning activity is open to both specialists and family physicians then accreditation must be completed through both the Royal College self-approval process and the through the *Mainpro+* certification process of the College of Family Physicians. For regularly recurring hospital rounds the CPD Office can apply for *Mainpro+* certification on behalf of family physician groups. This compiled application process is undertaken on an annual basis.

For information on accreditation, please contact Antoinette Picone, Coordinator, Medical Staff Engagement and Development office of CPD for Medical Staff: antoinette.picone@viha.ca or at 250-370-8425.

References:

[Mainpro+ CPD Program - College of Family Physicians of Canada](#)

You can also watch this short YouTube video about updates to the Mainpro Program: [Mainpro+ Spring 2016](#)

[Maintenance of Certification \(MOC\) Program - Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#)