



Renewed agreement of recognition with the American Medical Association

Earn CME credits for international activities

The UEMS-EACCME® (European Accreditation for Continuing Medical Education - body of the European Union of Medical Specialists) and the American Medical Association (AMA) renewed their agreement on 18th Oct. 2010.

While the previous agreement allowed US physicians to convert CME credits certified by the UEMS-EACCME® to AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™, this principle of credit recognition was now reciprocated, meaning that European physicians can now convert AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ to European CME Credits (ECMEC®). The agreement, which started in 1999, has also been expanded to include recognition of accreditation of e-learning activities.

Among those who participated in the signing ceremony at AMA headquarters in Chicago were Susan Skochelak, MD, the AMA's vice president of medical education; Alejandro Aparicio, MD, the AMA's director of the division of continuing physician professional development; Michael Maves, MD, MBA, the AMA's executive vice president and chief executive officer; Zlatko Fras, MD, UEMS president; and Bernard Maillet, MD, UEMS secretary general.



The UEMS-EACCME® Why & How does it work?

The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) established the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME® - hereafter referred to as UEMS-EACCME®) in October 1999 with the aim of harmonising and improving the quality of specialist medical care in Europe.

The UEMS-EACCME® began its activities in January 2000, by facilitating the mutual recognition of accreditation of EU-wide and international CME/CPD activities for live educational events through the awarding of

Continued on page 2

Continuing Medical Education or Continuing Professional Development?

CME vs. CPD - The UEMS defines CPD as the educative means of updating, developing and enhancing how doctors apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes required in their working lives. The goal of CPD is to improve all aspects of a medical practitioner's performance in his/her work. CPD therefore incorporates the concept of CME, which generally is taken to refer only to expanding the knowledge and skill base required by doctors.

While the initial model of continuing education for practitioners focused on CME, an increasing recognition of the many components that contribute to good medical practice has led to CPD being accepted as the more appropriate concept. There is a continuum from undergraduate medical education (UGE) through postgraduate training (PGT) to continuing professional development (CPD). CPD forms part of a personal program of lifelong learning that every doctor is engaged in from his/her first day at medical school until their retirement from practice.

Ref: "Basel Declaration" – UEMS Policy on CPD



UEMS-EACCME®

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Continued from page 1

European CME credits (ECMEC®) to individual medical specialists, allowing the recognition and exchange of CME credits between all European countries.

The UEMS-EACCME® set itself as the central link between the National Accreditation Authorities (NAAs), the UEMS Specialist Sections and Boards (S&Bs), the European Specialty Accreditation Boards (ESABs) and the Providers of CME activities.

The purpose of the UEMS-EACCME® is to promote high standards in the development and harmonisation of CME/CPD for medical specialists in Europe.

What added value?

The added value of UEMS-EACCME® lies in its central link and bridging role. From the point of view of the Providers of events, the accreditation process is less resource-consuming and easier since they do not have to apply to every NAA to have an event recognised in every European country.

On the basis of UEMS-EACCME® accreditation, the approval from the NAA of the country where the event takes place

will be recognised automatically in all the other European countries. Consequently, the added value rests in the international dimension that is given to an event. More participants from other countries and also from the USA would be interested in participating in their meetings.

CME/CPD accreditation granted by the UEMS-EACCME® also provides a guarantee to participants from all over the world that the content of the CME/CPD provided is of a high quality and, for European doctors, that this quality will be recognised in their home country.

Acknowledgement by the EU

The UEMS was encouraged to gain recognition of this initiative from the European Commission (*See UEMS 2008/03*) and looks forward to continuing close cooperation with the Commission and Parliament to ensure that high standards of CME/CPD for all European doctors are achieved.

The UEMS-EACCME® has indeed proven to be a beneficial mechanism to allow European doctors to move across countries in order to more easily benefit from international CME/CPD which is of high quality thanks to the transfer of CME credits. The UEMS-EACCME® thereby also allows doctors to access updates in medicine and human science which are of relevance to their clinical work.

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The European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) was established by the UEMS for the purpose of ensuring the international mutual recognition of quality assessments of CME/CPD activities organised all over the world for the benefit of European doctors.

EACCME® functioning for the accreditation of live educational events

