

USE OF NCME FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

Increasing numbers of professional organizations, state medical associations and specialty groups are encouraging—and in some cases requiring—their members to participate in continuing education activities. The use of NCME programs is widely acceptable toward partially meeting the requirements of these various organizations. A review of some professional CME requirements may be useful.

To earn the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association, physicians must participate in 150 hours of continuing medical education during a three-year period. The AMA divides CME activities into six categories and five sub-categories. NCME programs are routinely accepted in category 5A which has a limit of 22 hours. Once category 5A is filled, they are acceptable in category 2 up to a limit of 45 hours. Specially designated NCME programs are acceptable for category 1 credit under provisions governing the individual use of audio visual materials. Credit of this type is limited to 45 hours in total.

The American Academy of Family Physicians requires 150 hours in a three-year period and divides its activities into two categories: Prescribed and Elective. Prescribed refers to activities specifically produced for the field of Family Practice while Elective comprehends all other programs. NCME programs are usually accepted as Elective but sometimes as Prescribed. Total hours required by other professional societies may vary.

The American Osteopathic Association continuing medical education program specifies that a particular category of credit be determined by the Director of Medical Education

at the osteopathic hospital or school where the activity is conducted. The DME also forwards attendance rosters to AOA headquarters, and participation is entered on the computer record of the members involved. NCME programs are most often accredited under category 2A or 2D at the recommendations of the DME.

NCME's service includes a self-assessment quiz which physicians use to evaluate their knowledge of teaching points made in NCME programs. Upon completion of the quiz, it may be retained for the physician's own record or, if desired, sent to NCME for confidential filing.

Not all NCME programs have self-assessment quizzes. When those programs which do are ordered from the catalog, one copy of the self-assessment quiz will be enclosed. You may duplicate the quiz as your needs require. Please make sure the Social Security number is clearly written if the quiz is returned for credit.

To receive credit, the quiz *must* be returned to NCME. The quiz can be mailed directly to NCME or given to the Director of Medical Education, the Medical Staff Secretary, Chairman of the Education Committee or another appropriate person who collects all quizzes and sends them in bulk to NCME every two weeks. Physicians may request their NCME activity records at anytime.

If there are subsequent questions, please phone NCME at (212) 541-8088.