

CME Provider Update

Nevada State Medical Association, 3660 Baker Lane #101, Reno, Nevada 89509
(775) 825-6788

New Directions for CME: Evidence-Based Learning and Performance Improvement

Traditionally, continuing medical education has used the didactic model for communicating educational material to physicians. Learners watch as a skill is demonstrated, listen to lectures, or read course materials. No mechanism was in place to verify that a physician's attendance at CME activities resulted in improvements in his or her clinical practice behaviors. CME is now moving in a new direction that emphasizes two key concepts: evidence-based learning and performance improvement.

Evidence-based learning occurs when a physician: 1) consults an evidence-based source to answer a question about patient care or treatment, 2) documents a planned behavior change, and 3) incorporates changes in practice behavior as a result of the information learned. Performance improvement is a process that begins with the comparison of a physician's current practice to national standards for physician practice. Gaps in practice are noted, and educational needs are identified. The physician participates in educational intervention(s) designed to eliminate the practice gaps. Practice behaviors are re-evaluated to identify reduction or elimination of the gaps, and summarize outcome changes.

Clarifying Misconceptions about Ethics CME Credit

CME coordinators are often confused about advertising and documenting continuing medical education activities on topics related to medical ethics. NSMA regularly reviews activity announcements submitted by providers which state that ethics CME credit is being given for an activity. In fact, there is no such thing as ethics CME credit. Providers may indicate in the course materials that an educational activity addresses medical ethics, and that the physician participant may choose to use the certificate of attendance as documentation for the licensure Board that he/she has taken a course in medical ethics.

2007 NSMA Sponsored CME Workshop

This year's CME Workshop will be held in both Las Vegas and Reno. Course instructors will give an overview of the new Criteria, review the Essential Areas and Elements, and explain how the Criteria complement the Essential Areas and Elements. A best practices session will be held for the providers to share strategies and tools for CME program operations and CME activity production.

Las Vegas
Children's Heart Center
Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Reno
Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center
Tuesday, September 11, 2007