

AAFP CME CREDIT SYSTEM PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

(Definitions established by the Commission on Continuing Professional Development)

1. The CME activity must be relevant to the scope of family medicine and comply with the Prescribed or Elective credit definitions.

PRESCRIBED:

The CME activity must be primarily designed for physicians and have an AAFP Active or Life member directly involved in the planning of the activity to ensure the relevance of the content to the specialty of family medicine.

ELECTIVE:

The CME activity may be primarily designed for health care professionals other than physicians. Direct involvement of an AAFP Active or Life member in the planning of the activity is not required.

2. The CME activity must meet the definition of CME: Continuing medical education (CME) is the process by which family physicians and other health professional engage in activities designed to support their continuing professional development. Activities are free from promotion, derived from multiple instructional domains, are learner centered, and support the ability of those professionals to provide high-quality, comprehensive, and continuous patient care and service to the public and their profession.
3. The CME activity must fully comply with the [ACCME Standards for Commercial Support](#) and/or [Standard for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education](#).
4. The CME activity must:
 - a. Be based on the educational needs of learners based on their professional practice gaps,
 - b. Address one or more ACGME/ABMS core competencies,
 - c. Engage learners in the education as appropriate, and
 - d. Define and evaluate the learner's achieved outcome level.
5. All topics must have learning objectives that communicate the educational purpose and state what the learner will be able to do upon completion of the education.
6. Clinical topics must be:
 - a. Evidence-based and/or customary and generally accepted (CGA), OR,
 - b. If some or all the content is not evidence-based or CGA,
 - i. It must not appear to the COCPD to be dangerous or ineffective.
 - ii. In this case, content must:
 1. Offer a balanced explanation of potential benefits and risks, AND,
 2. Be presented in a manner that is intended to inform the physician rather than train the physician in the practical application of the content.
7. Non-clinical topics must adhere to one or more of the following and eligibility must be evident within the learning objectives:
 - a. Have a direct bearing on a physician's ability to deliver patient care
 - b. Assist physicians in carrying out their professional responsibilities more effectively and efficiently
 - c. Directly support the profession of family medicine

Please note topics for the physicians' personal benefit (personal financial planning, practicing yoga, etc.) are not eligible for AAFP CME credit.

Functional Medicine Topics:

- Eligible activities and sessions for credit: limited to those that provide the clinician with an overview or scope of Functional Medicine and the techniques that Functional Medicine practitioners use so that the clinician can educate patients who inquire about Functional Medicine. (Examples may include introducing the topic of Functional Medicine or explaining the Functional Medicine matrix).
- Ineligible activities and sessions for credit: those that teach the clinician how to do various techniques, modalities, or applications of Functional Medicine that practitioners may implement in their clinical practices. (Examples may include teaching how to treat patients using various Functional Medicine modalities or applying Functional Medicine to clinical practice).

The Commission on Continuing Professional Development (COCPD) is charged with exercising its professional judgment in the interpretation and application of the AAFP CME Credit System Eligibility Requirements in order to ensure that AAFP CME credit is awarded to activities that are appropriate for AAFP members. The COCPD has the authority to deny any activity or portion of an activity that does not appear to align with the intentions of the requirements.

Previous CME credit determination decisions do not influence current application reviews. This is in part because rules change and evolve over time, along with the CME environment. Prior CME credit approvals are not a guarantee that future applications or sessions will be approved.