ACCME Data Report Shows Growth and Evolution of Accredited Continuing Medical Education

Numbers of Educational Activities and Participants on the Rise
Chicago, IL
July 13, 2017

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) is pleased to release the ACCME Data Report: Growth and Evolution in Continuing Medical Education — 2016. The report includes data from a community of more than 1,800 accredited continuing medical education (CME) providers that offer physicians and healthcare teams an array of resources to promote quality, safety, and the evolution of healthcare.

Key Takeaways – A Vibrant, Growing Community

- More than 1,800 accredited CME providers offered close to 159,000 educational activities in 2016.
- This education comprised more than 1 million hours of instruction and included interactions with 27 million healthcare professionals.
- Since 2015, the number of educational events have increased 7%, hours of instruction increased by 9%, and interactions with clinicians grew 5%.
- The number of activities and interactions have increased each year since 2010, despite some consolidation among CME providers.
- The numbers of physician interactions have increased over the years or remained fairly stable. The number of interactions with nonphysician healthcare professionals such as nurses, physician assistants, and pharmacists shows steady growth.

Accredited CME providers represent a range of organizations from national physician membership organizations to rural hospitals. Some specialize in local, community-based health issues, others focus on national and international health priorities, and others advance interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) and team-based care. The ACCME recently began accrediting organizations outside the US, and this report includes their data as well.

The geographic distribution and diversity of CME providers means that clinicians and teams have access to education where they live and work that addresses local, national, and international healthcare priorities.

“Every day, across the country, clinicians can choose from more than 3,000 hours of accredited CME. Accredited CME is a tremendous resource — offering clinicians, educators, and health leaders the power and capacity to address many of the challenges we face in our changing healthcare environment,” said Graham McMahon, MD, MMSc, President and CEO, ACCME.

Hear more from Dr. McMahon about the report in this brief video.

About the Data Report

Each year, accredited organizations within the ACCME System submit data describing their individual CME activities and overall CME programs. The ACCME aggregates this information to give a view of the year and analyzes current and previous years’ data to identify long-range trends. Since 1999, the ACCME has produced annual data reports as a service to educators, learners, and other healthcare stakeholders.

ACCME Data Report and Supplementary Resources
The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) is a nonprofit organization based in Chicago, responsible for accrediting institutions that offer continuing medical education (CME) and for recognizing state medical societies as accreditors of local CME programs.

The ACCME sets standards for CME that reflect the values of the educator community and aim to accelerate learning, inspire change, and champion improvement in healthcare. These standards ensure that accredited CME is designed to be relevant to clinicians' needs, evidence-based, evaluated for its effectiveness, and independent of commercial influence. Through participation in accredited CME, clinicians and teams drive improvement in their practice and optimize the care, health, and wellness of their patients.

Accredited CME facilitates engagement with physicians and healthcare teams where they live, learn, and work. There are approximately 1,800 accredited CME providers within the ACCME System, across the country and internationally, representing a range of organizations including medical schools, hospitals/health systems, government/military agencies, specialty societies, and insurance/managed-care companies. Accredited providers offer about 159,000 activities each year, comprising more than one million hours of instruction and including more than 27 million interactions with physicians and other healthcare professionals. For more information, visit [www.accme.org](http://www.accme.org). You can also follow the ACCME on [Twitter](http://www.accme.org), [LinkedIn](http://www.accme.org), and [Facebook](http://www.accme.org).

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