



Interprofessional Accreditation in Support of Interprofessional Education An Exploratory Meeting of Accreditors Summary— February 7, 2013

On February 7, 2013 the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), hosted “Interprofessional Accreditation in Support of Interprofessional Education: An Exploratory Meeting of Accreditors” at the ACCME’s offices in Chicago. The purpose of the meeting was to identify areas of alignment among the accreditation systems and opportunities to support interprofessional collaborative practice. Accreditors shared their common goals of facilitating CE that supports improvements in patient care and public health.

The inaugural meeting was facilitated by Ginny Jacobs, MEd, MLS, CCMEP, Director, CME, University of Minnesota. Participants included representatives from the following accreditors.

Continuing Health Care Education Accreditors

American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Dental Association
American Psychological Association
Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry

Commission on Dietetic Registration/Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services

Accreditors’ Systems and Processes

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) accredits organizations that provide CME and also recognizes 43 state medical societies as accreditors of CME providers for learners within their state or contiguous states. There are approximately 2,000 accredited providers within the ACCME system offering approximately 130,000 activities per year. The ACCME does not accredit individual activities; however accredited providers can jointly sponsor individual activities with nonaccredited organizations.

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) is the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmacy education. ACPE accredits approximately 360 organizations within the United States and internationally to provide CE for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) approves activities. There are 1,500 to 2,000 AAPA-certified activities. Forty-nine nationally recognized certificate programs are preapproved. AAPA accepts *American Medical Association Physician’s Recognition Award Category 1 Credit™*, American Osteopathic Association Category 1-A credit, and American Academy of Family Physicians prescribed credit as equivalent except for PI-CME and self-assessment activities. Starting in 2014, of the 100 CME credits

required every 2 years, 50 are Category 1 credits of which 20 include directed CME for PI-CME and self-assessment activities.

American Dental Association (ADA) approves 430 providers of continuing dental education. Three dental specialty societies and 13 state dental associations are approved to extend recognition to component societies offering courses within their state or region; an additional 108 providers are approved through this process. The ADA does not approve individual activities; however approved providers can jointly sponsor individual activities with nonaccredited organizations.

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) accredits providers and approvers. Approvers include constituent and state nurses associations (C/SNA), federal nursing services (FNS) and specialty nursing organizations (SNO). ANCC accredits both international and domestic providers. There are approximately 350 accredited providers, 50 accredited approvers, and 1,200–1,500 approved providers in the system. ANCC also credentials skill-based competency programs to validate practice skills.

American Psychological Association (APA) recognizes sponsors of psychology CE. (APA does not use the term *accreditation*.) There are 800 approved sponsors.

Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) is developing a hybrid model to accredit providers and activities. There are 791 providers that offer 1,491 activities.

Commission on Dietetic Registration/Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (CDR/AND) accredits continuing professional education (CPE) providers and approves individual CPE activities. There are approximately 225 accredited providers and 4,500 activities approved within the system. Organizations can apply either for CPE provider accreditation, or for prior-approval for individual CPE activities.

Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS) is the national accrediting body for EMS CE. CECBEMS is recognized in approximately 90 percent of the US. CECBEMS accredits approximately 92 CE providers. These CE providers are required to report all individual student course completions to the Accreditation Management System (AMS), an SQL enterprise-level database. Currently the AMS contains more than four million records dating back to 2004, and 1,568 currently active educational offerings.

Evolution of Accreditors and Professions

Accreditors discussed the purpose and processes of their systems, their relationships with licensing boards, and the evolving needs of each profession. They discussed approaches to competency-based CE and certifications for health care professionals who complete training in specific skills. This approach could help health care professionals and institutions demonstrate their competence to the public.

Participants explored the evolving expectations of their professions, including the expectation for CE to measure outcomes and performance improvement. Moving forward, performance and outcomes measurements could be team-based. CE can be a process that supports the goals of health care reform regarding interprofessional practice, and supports health practitioners' continuous quality improvement and continuing professional development.

Shared Goals and Opportunities

Accreditors identified goals including creating standardized terminology and exploring a shared set of expectations and measures regarding interprofessional education in support of collaborative practice. Accreditors meetings are valuable because they provide a forum for leadership to share perspectives, enhance collaboration, and model interprofessional collaborative practice. The meetings offer a venue for accreditors to identify collaborative opportunities to communicate the value of accreditation and to develop strategies for CE to address public health imperatives.