



Call for Comment Summary Proposal for a Menu of New Criteria for Accreditation with Commendation

On January 12, 2016, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME[®]) issued a call for public comment about its [proposal](#) for a menu of new criteria for Accreditation with Commendation. Comments were accepted through February 16, 2016. The call for comment was issued in accordance with the ACCME [Rule-Making Policy](#).

Purpose and Background

The goal of the [proposed new criteria](#) is to encourage and reward accredited CME providers for implementing best practices in pedagogy, engagement, evaluation, and change management, and for focusing on generating meaningful outcomes. The proposal reflects the recommendations we have gathered from a diverse range of stakeholders about how to advance CME's role in the changing health environment and leverage the power of education to improve healthcare.

The proposed commendation criteria are designed to serve as a guidepost for the future of CME. The purpose of the menu structure is to promote best practices, reflect the diversity of the CME community, create flexibility, and offer a pathway for all CME provider types to achieve Accreditation with Commendation.

Summary of Responses

In the online survey, respondents had the opportunity to comment on the menu structure and on each of the criteria, and to submit additional feedback. We received comments from 245 respondents, who submitted 2,615 comments. The respondents represent a range of organizations and CME provider types.

All questions were optional; respondents could choose to answer one or more of the questions. Respondents were asked to answer questions by checking yes or no. They were asked if the menu structure fulfilled its purpose and if each of the 16 criteria was clear as written. For each question, respondents that chose "no" were required to submit a comment. Respondents that chose "yes" had the option to submit a comment. There was an additional optional comment section at the end of the survey for respondents to provide more feedback.

The majority of respondents agreed that the criteria were clear as written, offer flexibility, and would achieve the goal of advancing quality and achieving outcomes in post-graduate medical education. Many respondents requested additional clarification and definitions for some of the terms and expressed concern that the measures for achieving compliance were too difficult and that the criteria would not be attainable for all CME provider types.

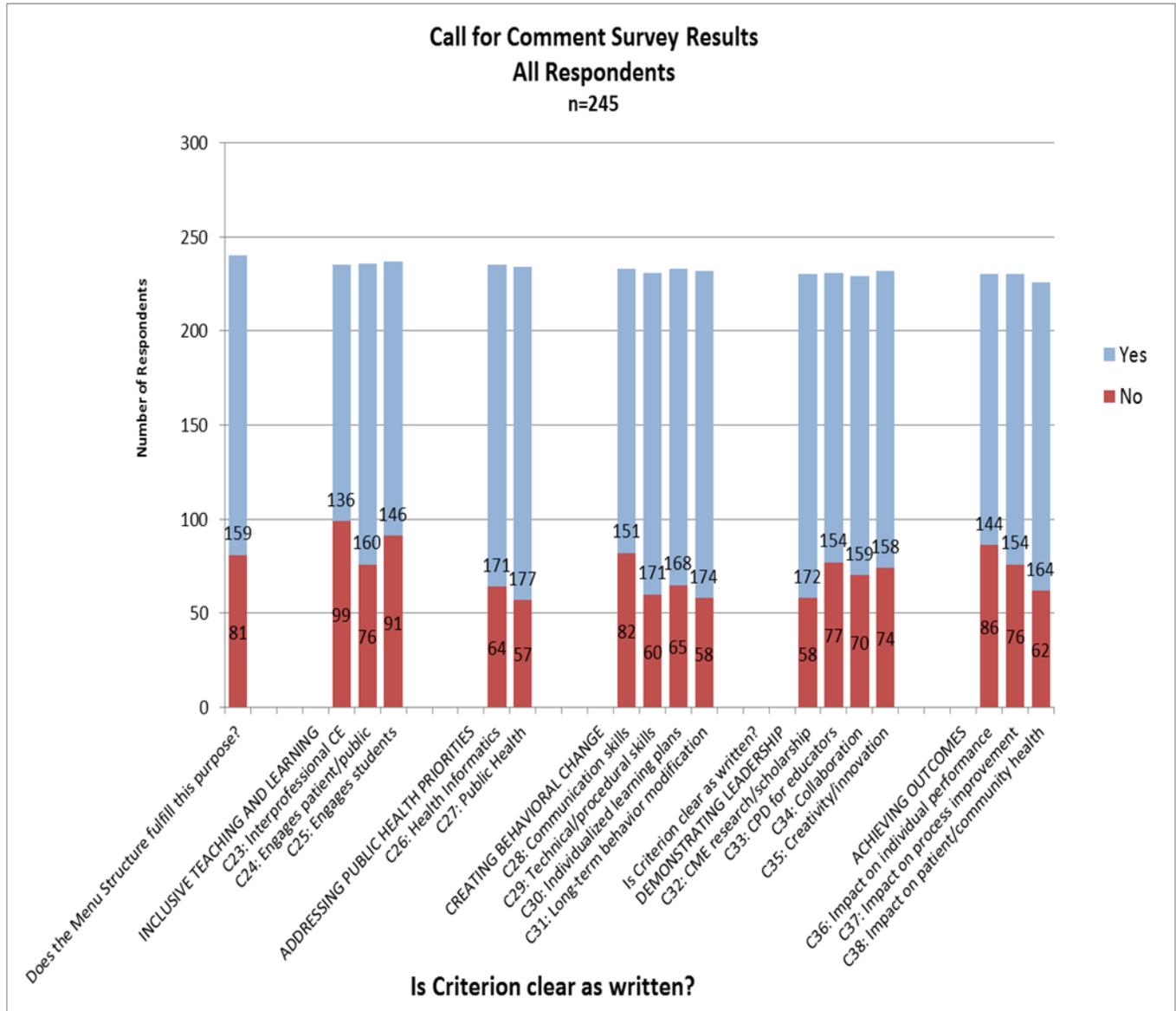


Figure 1. Numbers and percentages of yes and no responses for each question

Table 1. Survey Responses: Numbers and Percentages by Organization Description

Total Survey Responses by Organization Description	Number	Percent
ACCME-accredited provider	133	54%
State-accredited provider	64	26%
ACCME Recognized Accreditor (State Medical Society)	24	10%
Physician/healthcare professional	13	5%
Other	10	4%
Media	1	0%
ACCME-defined commercial interest	0	0%
Member of the public	0	0%
TOTAL	245	100%

ACCME Review of Responses

The ACCME appreciates the substantial, thoughtful, and insightful feedback. At its March 2016 meeting, the ACCME Board of Directors held an in-depth discussion about the responses and decided that it is important to continue to reflect on the feedback. As a next step, we will consider all the feedback and formulate an evolved set of guidelines and compliance measures to present to the Board at the July 2016 meeting for continued discussion and possible adoption.

[Download](#) the responses to the call for comment.

For more information, please visit [Proposal for New Criteria for Accreditation with Commendation](#).