



Joint Accreditation for the Provider of Continuing Education for the Healthcare Team
“Accreditation of Continuing Education Planned by the Team for the Team”
A joint initiative of ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC

History

Beginning in 1998, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) began the process of aligning the three accrediting systems to create a unified “joint accreditation” process for organizations that develop education for the healthcare team. The goals of this joint accreditation are to support healthcare team-focused education that improves practice, and at the same time to streamline the accreditation processes. Interprofessional education is designed to address the professional practice gaps of the healthcare team using an educational planning process that reflects input from those healthcare professionals who make up the team. The education is designed to change the skills/strategy, performance, or patient outcomes of the healthcare team. In March 2009, specific joint accreditation criteria, eligibility information and process steps for joint accreditation were released. The ACCME, ACPE and ANCC began making Joint Accreditation decisions in July 2010.

Definition

As an organization that builds bridges with other stakeholders through collaboration and cooperation, the provider of continuing education (CE) for the healthcare team participates within a framework for quality improvement by planning, offering and evaluating education for teams comprised of two or more healthcare professionals (e.g., nurses, pharmacists, and/or physicians). The goal of this education will be to address the professional practice gaps of the healthcare team using an educational planning process that reflects input from those healthcare professionals who make up the team. The education will be designed to change the skills/strategy, performance, or patient outcomes of the healthcare team. Joint accreditation offers an additional option — not a restriction — for continuing education providers. Organizations that are accredited separately can also produce education for health care teams, and organizations that are awarded joint accreditation can also produce education that is not team-related.

Eligibility

Organizations are eligible to seek accreditation as a provider of continuing education for the healthcare team if...

- the organization is already accredited in good standing by two national accrediting bodies (ACCME, ACPE and/or ANCC) or one national accrediting body (ACCME, ACPE or ANCC) and one state accrediting body (ACCME Recognized Accreditor or ANCC Accredited Approver).
- 25% of the educational activities delivered by the organization during the past 12 months are comprised of education designed by and for the healthcare team; and
- the organization engages in the joint accreditation process and demonstrates compliance with the criteria described below and any associated accreditation policies required by ACCME, ACPE or ANCC.

Overview of the Joint Accreditation Process

An organization seeking accreditation as a provider of continuing education for the healthcare team will submit materials including a self study report and supporting activity files, along with a fee, and will participate in the process of accreditation review that is jointly managed by ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC. The review process is expected to take approximately 12 months and will include:

- Engagement by the provider in a self study to reflect on its program of continuing education;
- Submission of a self study report in which the provider describes its practices and verifies these practices using examples;
- An interview conducted by a three-person team of volunteer surveyors (representative of ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC) and a staff member of one of the three national accrediting bodies;
- Review of activity documentation in activity files.
- Review of materials to a Joint Accreditation Review Committee (Joint ARC) constituted equally by representatives from ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC.
- Recommendation made by the Joint ARC will be forwarded for final decision to the governing boards of ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC.

The standard term of accreditation as a provider of continuing education for the healthcare team will be four years. A progress report may be required as part of the accreditation decision. Annual reports may also be required by each accrediting body. If a provider withdraws from the joint accreditation process and/or is not successful, the provider will have one year to seek accreditation directly through each individual accrediting body as desired.

Under the status of accreditation as a provider of CE for the healthcare team, the provider may also offer continuing education for nurses, pharmacists, or physicians separately.

Two review cycles will be provided:

Milestone	Cycle 1	Cycle 2
Determination of eligibility	On-going	On-going
Provider deadline to submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Intent to apply ✓ Activity list of educational activities ✓ Fee payment 	January 1	September 1
Provider informed which activity files, at a minimum, will be reviewed.	February 1	October 15
Providers contacted to establish interview date	April/May	January/February
Provider deadline to submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Self Study Report ✓ Activity files 	July 1	March 1
Interview	August/September	April/May
Joint ARC Meeting	October	June
Provider notified of decision no later than	November 30	July 31

Expectation of providers

Providers pursuing accreditation through the joint accreditation process are expected to plan, develop and deliver continuing education in accordance with the Joint Accreditation Criteria and the ACCME/ACPE/ANCC Policies for Jointly Accredited Providers.



Joint Accreditation Criteria

An organization's status and term as an accredited provider of continuing education for the healthcare team is based on demonstrated compliance with the following criteria:

Mission and Overall Program Improvement

1. The accredited provider has a continuing education (CE) mission statement that highlights education for the healthcare team as part of their purpose, content areas, target audience, type of activities and expected results, with the expected results articulated in terms of changes in skills/strategy, performance, or patient outcomes of the healthcare team.
2. The provider gathers data or information and conducts a program-based analysis on the degree to which the CE mission of the provider has been met through the conduct of CE activities/educational interventions. Based on that analysis:
 - a. The provider identifies, plans and implements the needed or desired changes in the overall program (e.g., planners, teachers, infrastructure, methods, resources, facilities, interventions) that are required to improve on ability to meet the CE mission.
 - b. The provider demonstrates that identified program changes or improvements, that are required to improve on the provider's ability to meet the CE mission, are underway or completed.
 - c. The provider demonstrates that the impacts of program improvements, that are required to improve on the provider's ability to meet the CE mission, are measured.
3. The provider operates in a manner that integrates CE into the process for improving the professional practice of the healthcare team.

Activity Planning and Evaluation

4. The provider incorporates into CE activities the educational needs (knowledge, skills/strategy, or performance) that underlie the practice gaps of the healthcare team and/or the individual members of the healthcare team.
5. The provider generates activities/educational interventions that are designed to change the skills/strategy, performance, or patient outcomes of the healthcare team as described in its mission statement.
6. The provider generates activities/educational interventions around valid content that matches the healthcare team's current or potential scope of professional activities.
7. The provider chooses educational formats for activities/interventions that are appropriate for the setting, objectives and desired results of the activity.
8. The provider develops activities/educational interventions in the context of desirable attributes of the healthcare team (e.g., Institute of Medicine competencies, professional competencies, healthcare team competencies).

9. The provider develops activities/educational interventions that are independent of commercial interests (ACCME Standards for Commercial SupportSM), including the:
 - a. Identification, resolution and disclosure of relevant financial relationships of all individuals who control the content of the continuing education activity;
 - b. Appropriate management of commercial support (if applicable).
 - c. Maintenance of the separation of promotion from education (if applicable).
 - d. Promotion of improvements in health care and NOT proprietary interests of a commercial interest.
10. The provider utilizes educational support strategies to enhance change as an adjunct to its educational interventions (e.g., reminders, patient feedback).
11. The provider identifies factors outside the provider's control that impact on patient outcomes.
12. The provider implements educational strategies to remove, overcome, or address barriers to change for the healthcare team.
13. The provider analyzes changes in the healthcare team (skills/strategy, performance, or patient outcomes) achieved as a result of the overall program's activities/educational interventions.
14. The provider maintains and reports required data and information about the continuing education that is delivered during its current term of accreditation.

ACCME/ACPE/ANCC Policies for Jointly Accredited Providers

1. The accreditation statement must appear on all education materials and brochures distributed by the jointly accredited organization that indicate appropriate continuing education 'credit' will be awarded for completion of the activity. The accreditation statement to be used is:

"In support of improving patient care, the _____ is accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team."

When an activity has been planned, implemented and evaluated by two or more organizations and one of the organizations has been jointly accredited, the accreditation statement to be used is:

"This activity has been planned and implemented by _____ and _____ for the advancement of patient care. _____ is accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team."

The accreditation must stand alone from any other statement.

2. In addition to the Joint Accreditation Criteria, enduring materials must communicate the following information to participants prior to the learner starting the educational activity:
 - a) Principal faculty and their credentials;
 - b) Medium or combination of media used;

- c) Method of learner participation in the learning process;
 - d) Estimated time to complete the education activity
 - e) Date of release and latest review
 - f) Continuing education credit that will be awarded
 - g) Termination date (date after which enduring material is no longer certified for credit).
3. Jointly accredited providers are accountable for timely submission of fees to each accrediting body that are required to attain or maintain accreditation.
 4. Jointly accredited providers are accountable for timely submission of information, such as annual reports and activity data, requested by any of the accrediting bodies.
 5. ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC reserve the right to publish on their web sites all public information. Public information includes:
 - a) Names and contact information for jointly accredited providers
 - b) Accreditation status of jointly accredited provider
 - c) Any other data/information that the accrediting bodies believe qualifies as 'public information'
 6. When logos are used in association with continuing healthcare education provided by the jointly accredited organization, the logos of all three accrediting bodies (ACCME, ACPE, ANCC) must be used. The logos may be used for educational and identification purposes. They may also be used in announcements related to an organization's attainment of joint accreditation. When used, the logos of ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC must be smaller than the logo of the accredited organization and must be used in conjunction with the logo of the accredited organization. While logos may be resized, they must be used in the proportions provided.
 7. The governing bodies of the accrediting entities granting joint accreditation reserve the right to request information for oversight purposes or continuous quality improvement as needed. The jointly accredited organization is expected to respond to these requests in a timely manner.
 8. Activity files must be retained by the jointly accredited organization for six years following provision of the educational activity.
 9. Jointly accredited organizations must inform the accrediting bodies –ACCME, ACPE, ANCC – of any changes in ownership or structure within six weeks of such change.
 10. The accrediting bodies – ACCME, ACPE and ANCC – may share information about jointly accredited providers with each other as needed.