Call for Comment: New Criteria for Accreditation with Commendation

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) is pleased to issue a call for public comment about its proposal for a menu of new criteria for Accreditation with Commendation, in accordance with its Rule-Making Policy.

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 to focus on generating meaningful outcomes. The proposal reflects the ideas and feedback we have gathered from the CME community and other stakeholders during the past few years about how to advance CME’s role in the changing health environment and leverage the power of education to improve healthcare.

We suggest that you review the proposal, which includes a Message from the CEO, the criteria, and explanatory information, before completing this call for comment. It is available in a PDF for your easy reference here.

The survey gives you the opportunity to provide your feedback about the menu structure and about each of the proposed 16 criteria. There is an additional comment section at the end of the survey for you to provide more feedback.

All viewpoints are welcome, but please make your comments constructive. The ACCME will not consider anonymous submissions.

Comments will be accepted until February 16, 2016, at 5:00 pm Central.

Only the items with a star are required. Please click the "Begin" button below to complete the call for comment.

Thank you for your participation.
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The following information will help us analyze the needs and responses of our different stakeholder groups. Your contact information will enable us to follow up with you for additional feedback and to share results. We do **not** publish respondents' contact information, including names, email addresses, or affiliations. We **do** publish the comments, identified **only by organizational type**. Please note that we do **not** remove identifying information if it is included in the comments.

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**1. First Name** (*Required*)

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**2. Last Name** (*Required*)

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**3. Email address** (*Required*)

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**4. Organization** (*Required*)

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**5. Please tell us which of the following describes you or your organization:** (*Required*)

*Select one.*

- ACCME-accredited provider
  
  *(Answer question number 5.1.)*

- State-accredited provider (provider accredited by an ACCME Recognized State Medical Society)
  
  *(Answer question number 5.1.)*

- ACCME Recognized State Medical Society

- ACCME-defined commercial interest

- Physician/healthcare professional

- Media

- Member of the public

- Other
## 5.1 Organizational type: (*Required)

*Select one.*

- Government or military
- Hospital/healthcare delivery system
- Insurance company/managed-care company
- Nonprofit (other)
- Nonprofit (physician membership organization)
- Other
- Publishing/education company
- School of medicine
There are 16 proposed criteria, grouped into five categories:

- Inclusive Teaching and Learning: Criteria 23–25
- Addressing Public Health Priorities: Criteria 26–27
- Creating Behavioral Change: Criteria 28–31
- Demonstrating Leadership: Criteria 32–35
- Achieving Outcomes: Criteria 36 – 38

To be eligible to achieve Accreditation with Commendation, an accredited CME provider must demonstrate compliance with Accreditation Criteria 1-13 and:

1. Demonstrate compliance with at least one commendation criterion (C23-C38) from each of the five categories, and
2. Demonstrate compliance with at least eight of the commendation criteria (C23-C38)

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.

6. Does the menu structure fulfill this purpose?

Select one.

- Yes
- No

7. Please provide comments or questions about the menu structure. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
**INCLUSIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING: CRITERION 23**

**Criterion:**

C23: Engages in interprofessional collaborative practice in the planning and delivery of IPCE.

**Rationale:**

Interprofessional collaborative practice is when multiple health workers from different professional backgrounds work together with patients, families, caregivers, and communities to deliver the highest quality of care. Interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) is when members from two or more professions learn with, from, and about each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes. This criterion will reward accredited providers that work collaboratively with multiple health professions to develop interprofessional continuing education.

**Critical Elements:**

- Includes planners from more than one profession (representative of the target audience) AND
- Includes faculty from more than one profession (representative of the target audience) AND
- Uses team-based evaluation

**The Standard:**

≥25% of activities and/or learners

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<th>8. Is Criterion 23 clear as written?</th>
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*8.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)*

8.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
**INCLUSIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING: CRITERION 24**

**Criterion:**

C24: Engages patient/public representatives in the planning and delivery of CME.

**Rationale:**

Accredited education needs to advance the interests of the people who are served by the healthcare system. It is important to involve patients and the public in the planning and delivery of CME. This criterion rewards providers that incorporate patient and public representatives as planners, teachers, and learners in the accredited program.

**Critical Elements:**

- Planners include patients and/or public representatives who are not healthcare professionals **AND**
- Teachers/authors include patients and/or public representatives who are not healthcare professionals

**The Standard:**

≥25% of activities and/or learners

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9. Is Criterion 24 clear as written?

Select one.

- Yes
- No (If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.)

*9.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

*9.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
Inclusive Teaching and Learning: Criterion 25

Criterion:

C25: Engages health professions’ students in the planning and delivery of CME.

Rationale:

CME is an integral part of the continuum of medical education and needs to continually evolve to support emerging generations of health professionals. Student engagement in planning and delivering activities will facilitate the development of CME that will meet their needs as future participants. The criterion rewards providers for building bridges across the education continuum and for creating an environment that encourages students and professionals to work together to fulfill their commitment to lifelong learning.

Critical Elements:

- Planners include health professions’ students AND
- Teachers/authors include health professions' students

The Standard:

≥25% of activities and/or learners

10. Is Criterion 25 clear as written?

Select one.

☐ Yes

☐ No (If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.)

10.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

10.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
Criterion:

C26: Provides CME about health informatics and the use of practice data.

Rationale:

The collection, analysis, and synthesis of information derived from the care of patients (i.e., health information) and the application of the lessons learned from these data contribute to healthcare improvement. This criterion will reward providers that teach about health informatics and teach learners how to apply the wisdom gained from practice data for practice and/or quality improvement.

Critical Elements:

- Develops and implements CME on health informatics or the use of practice data

The Standard:

≥10% of activities and/or learners

11. Is Criterion 26 clear as written?
Select one.

☐ Yes

☐ No (If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.)

*11.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

11.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
C27: Provides CME about implementation strategies to improve public health.

Rationale:

This criterion rewards providers for expanding their programs beyond clinical care education to address factors affecting the health of populations. To achieve compliance, the accredited program will teach learners how they can implement change in health behaviors, social and economic factors, and the public’s physical environment.

Critical Elements:

- Provides CME that directly addresses public health concerns AND
- Provides CME about strategies to achieve improvements in public health

The Standard:

≥10% of activities and/or learners

12. Is Criterion 27 clear as written?

Select one.

- Yes
- No (If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.)

*12.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

12.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
**C28: Develops communication skills of learners.**

**Rationale:**

Communication skills are essential to most aspects of professional practice. This criterion will reward providers that help learners become more self-aware of their communication skills, and implement educational interventions to improve those skills.

**Critical Elements:**

- Uses an objective assessment of communication skill AND
- Provides feedback to the clinician using the assessment

≥10% of learners and/or activities

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*13.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

| 13.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words) |
CREATING BEHAVIORAL CHANGE: CRITERION 29

Criterion:

C29: Develops technical and procedural skills of learners.

Rationale:

Technical and procedural skills are essential to many aspects of professional practice, and can need updating, reinforcement, and reassessment. This criterion will reward providers that help learners gain technical and procedural skills.

Critical Elements:

• Uses an objective assessment of technical or procedural skill AND
• Provides feedback to the clinician using the assessment

The Standard:

≥10% of learners and/or activities

14. Is Criterion 29 clear as written?

Select one.

☐ Yes (Answer question number 14.2.)

☐ No (If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.) (Answer question number 14.1.)

*14.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

14.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
**CREATING BEHAVIORAL CHANGE: CRITERION 30**

**Criterion:**

C30: Creates individualized learning plans for learners.

**Rationale:**

This criterion rewards providers for developing CME that is designed to address the specific needs of an individual with a customized set of educational interventions. The baseline individual practice gap and needs may be derived from a variety of sources. The provider creates an individual, longitudinal curriculum for each learner, or customizes an existing curriculum for the learner. The personalized education needs to be designed to close the individual’s professional practice gaps. Providers are expected to repeatedly evaluate and provide feedback to the learner about their competence, performance, or patient outcomes relative to the identified gaps and needs.

**Critical Elements:**

- Assesses the learner repeatedly AND
- Provides individualized feedback to the learner AND
- Provides individualized recommendation to the learner for activities that close learning gaps

**The Standard:**

≥10% of learners and/or activities

15. Is Criterion 30 clear as written?

Select one.

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*15.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

15.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
**CREATING BEHAVIORAL CHANGE: CRITERION 31**

**Criterion:**

C31: Provides services and resources to generate and sustain long-term behavioral modification of learners.

**Rationale:**

Repeated engagement can sustain change. This criterion will reward providers that create supplemental services (e.g., reminders) and resources (e.g., instructional material online) that have meaningful ongoing utility to learners. The provider can demonstrate that their tools have value by tracking and reporting utilization.

**Critical Elements:**

- Provides services and resources (e.g., reminders, repeat assessments) AND
- Demonstrates ongoing use of the system or resources

**The Standard:**

≥10% of learners and/or activities

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<th>16. Is Criterion 31 clear as written?</th>
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*16.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)*

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**DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP: CRITERION 32**

**Criterion:**

C32: Engages in CME research and scholarship.

**Rationale:**

CME professionals should share best practices by developing and supporting innovative approaches, studying them, and disseminating the findings with our healthcare education community. This criterion is designed to encourage and reward this scholarly effort.

**Critical Elements:**

- Conducts research relevant to CME AND
- Produces data or information relevant to CME AND
- Publishes abstract or manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal

**The Standard:**

Once for every year of term

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<th>17. Is Criterion 32 clear as written?</th>
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*If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.*

**17.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)**

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Criterion:

C33: Engages in continuous professional development as educators.

Rationale:

CME professionals need to maintain and develop their own skills. This criterion will reward providers if the majority of the CME team has participated in continuing professional development (CPD) in domains relevant to the CME enterprise.

Critical Elements:

- Includes participation by at least half of the CME team AND
- Participation occurs every year AND
- Topics are relevant to CME function

The Standard:

≥50% of the CME team in external activities annually

18. Is Criterion 33 clear as written?

Select one.

- Yes
- No (If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.)

*18.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

18.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
**DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP: CRITERION 34**

**Criterion:**

C34: Creates collaborations with other organizations to more fully achieve healthcare goals.

**Rationale:**

A system in which organizations and people cooperate or collaborate with each other is a stronger, more empowered enterprise. This criterion will reward providers that apply this principle by creating collaborations that enhance the efficacy of the education.

**Critical Elements:**

- Engages with other healthcare or community organization AND
- Collaborates in initiative about improving healthcare AND
- Generates meaningful and measurable collaboration

**The Standard:**

≥10% of activities

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*19.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)*

19.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP: CRITERION 35

Criterion:

C35: Demonstrates creativity or innovation in the development or delivery of CME.

Rationale:

Education is evolving and CME programs should demonstrate leadership and creativity by designing and implementing innovative programs that improve the efficiency, efficacy, and impact of CME on learners, systems, patients, and our communities.

Critical Elements:

- Demonstrates use of an educational approach that was novel, creative, or innovative in the field of CME at the time it was launched

The Standard:

Once for every year of term

20. Is Criterion 35 clear as written?

Select one.

☐ Yes

☐ No (If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.)

(Answer question number 20.2.)

20.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words) (*Required)

20.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
ACHIEVING OUTCOMES: CRITERION 36

Criterion:

C36: Demonstrates the impact of the CME program on the performance of individual health professionals.

Rationale:

This criterion takes accredited CME beyond designing activities to change performance and measuring whether change occurred. This criterion will reward providers that can demonstrate the impact on the performance of individual learners.

Critical Elements:

- Measures performance of individual health professionals AND
- Demonstrates the impact on the performance of individual health professionals AND
- Connects impact on performance to the learning activity(ies)

The Standard:

Demonstrated impact on performance for ≥10% of program’s learners OR
Measured impact on performance for ≥25% of program’s learners

21. Is Criterion 36 clear as written?

Select one.

○ Yes

○ No (If you select "No," we would appreciate your explanation.)

*21.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)

21.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
### ACHIEVING OUTCOMES: CRITERION 37

**Criterion:**

C37: Demonstrates the impact of the CME program on process improvement.

**Rationale:**

Changing processes of care is often a key step that enables improvements in patient outcomes and safety. This criterion rewards providers that can demonstrate the impact of the CME program on process and/or quality improvement.

**Critical Elements:**

- Measures processes of care AND
- Demonstrates the impact on the process and/or quality improvement AND
- Connects impact on process and/or quality improvement to the learning activity(ies)

**The Standard:**

Demonstrated impact on process(es) or quality of care in >10% of activities OR Measured impact on process(es) or quality of care in >25% of activities

22. Is Criterion 37 clear as written?

Select one.

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**22.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)**

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**22.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)**

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### ACHIEVING OUTCOMES: CRITERION 38

**Criterion:**

C38: Demonstrates the impact of the CME program on the health of patients/communities.

**Rationale:**

Our shared goal is to improve the health of our patients and communities. This criterion rewards providers who can demonstrate the impact of the CME program on improvements in the health of patients/communities.

**Critical Elements:**

- Measures patient/community health outcomes AND
- Demonstrates the impact on the health of patients/communities AND
- Connects impact on the health of patients/communities to the learning activity(ies)

**The Standard:**

Demonstrated impact on the health of patients/communities at least once in each year of term OR Measured impact on the health of patients/communities at least once for every year of term

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*23.1 Since you answered "no" above, please explain and/or suggest edits. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)(*Required)*

23.2 Please provide comments or questions about this criterion. (1000 characters maximum or approximately 125 words)
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<th>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</th>
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<td><strong>24.</strong> We welcome any additional feedback you may have about the Proposed Menu of New Criteria for Accreditation with Commendation. (1500 characters maximum or approximately 175 words)</td>
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