CME Content Development and Validation Policy

CMU College of Medicine Office of Continuing Medical Education (CMED OCME) adheres to the definition of continuing medical education of the American Medical Association (AMA):

Continuing medical education consists of educational activities which serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession. The content of CME is that body of knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of health care to the public.

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) definition of CME is broad, to encompass continuing educational activities that assist physicians in carrying out their professional responsibilities more effectively and efficiently. Examples of topics that are included in the ACCME definition of CME content include:

- Management, for physicians responsible for managing a health care facility
- Educational methodology, for physicians teaching in a medical school
- Practice management, for physicians interested in providing better service to patients
- Coding and reimbursement in a medical practice

CMED OCME CME activities must be planned and developed with the following decisions made free of control of a commercial interest:

a) Identification of CME needs
b) Determination of educational objectives
c) Selection and presentation of content
d) Selection of all persons and organizations that will in a position to control content of the CME
e) Selection of educational methods
f) Evaluation of the activity

All planner(s), faculty, speaker(s), moderators and anyone in a position to control the content of a CME activity must disclose any relevant financial relationships with commercial interests (and, if any, to describe the nature of those relationships) to learners at the beginning of an accredited CME event.

The content or format of each activity or its related materials must promote improvements or quality in healthcare and not a specific proprietary business interest of a commercial interest and be based on the best available evidence. Presentations must provide a balanced view of therapeutic options (use of generic names contributes to impartiality and are preferred). If CME educational materials include trade names, if possible and available, trade names from several companies should be used to avoid bias or implications of influence on content.

CMED OCME prohibits any commercial interest from taking the role of non-accredited partner in a joint provider relationship. (See CMED OCME Policy and Procedures: Identification and Resolution of Conflicts of Interest)

All recommendations in a CMED OCME accredited CME activity involving clinical medicine must be based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for their indications and contraindications in the care of patients.

All scientific research referred to, reported, or used in a CMED OCME accredited CME activity in support or justification of a patient care recommendation must conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis.

CMED OCME will not accredit activities that promote recommendations, treatment, or manners of practicing medicine that are not within the definition of CME, or known to have risks or dangers that outweigh the benefits or are known to be ineffective in the treatment of patients.
Content Validity for Enduring Materials

For enduring materials offered by CMED OCME, each enduring material must be reviewed at a minimum once every three (3) years or more frequently if indicated by new scientific or research developments that are applicable to the specific enduring material content. Enduring materials cannot be offered as an accredited activity for more than three (3) years without review by qualified clinical planners/faculty to ensure that the content is up-to-date, current and accurate. Any such review date must be included on the enduring material, along with the original release date and the termination date.

AMA Physician’s Recognition Award

All CMED OCME accredited CME activities are planned, developed and presented to be able to offer *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™ to our medical doctors. CMED OCME adheres to and abides by all of the requirements of the AMA PRA program as well as the ACCME’s accreditation requirements, Standards for Commercial Support, and policies.