

## **Accreditation of CME/ CPD in Cardiovascular Medicine Policy Statement and Accreditation Rules**

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### **I.**

It is the aim of continuing medical education/ continuing professional development (CME/CPD) to maintain and update medical competence in cardiovascular medicine.

This includes

- interdisciplinary and interprofessional CME
- training in social and communication skills
- methodological tools like evidence based medicine, quality assurance, total quality management etc.

The individual physician is free to choose the type and content of CME/CPD which he/she considers as appropriate to meet his/her needs.

Concept and practice of accreditation should stimulate, coordinate and facilitate high quality CME/CPD in cardiovascular medicine, both for individuals and institutions, in order to provide the highest possible standard of care for patients and populations. CME points are awarded as a sign of quality and independence for participation in CME/CPD activities. Definitions of learning objectives, targeting the audience, and assuring objectively presented scientific content are among the key features that will be considered when accrediting a programme.

### **II.**

In order to be awarded with CME points CME/CPD activities must

- comply with the principles and rules of procedure as outlined in this document
- be open to all medical community
- be free of commercial interests regarding the presentation of content
- present a declaration of conflict of interest for each speaker/author
- be evaluated, either by an evaluation form or by a monitor, whom the organiser(s) have to guarantee free access, or both.

### **III.**

CME/ CPD activities which can be considered for accreditation include

- a) oral presentations with simultaneous presence of the audience, this includes webinars, visitation programmes etc.
  - verification of attendance is mandatory
  - 1 CME credit point will be awarded for 1 hour of education, which should contain 45 minutes of presentation and 15 minutes for discussion
  - a maximum of 6 points will be awarded for one day of education and 3 points for a half-day, respectively.

- b) all other presentations of CME/CPD, including print media, CD-ROM, internet etc.
  - verification of attendance is mandatory.
  - If there is no verification of attendance or attendance cannot be monitored the provider has to define the amount of CME/CPD material which should yield one credit point. This should have a high enough a priori likelihood that at least 45 minutes will be needed for study. This will usually be the case if the material equals 6 - 10 pages printed in a journal format. 1 CME credit point will be awarded for each unit of education which goes along with 6 multiple choice questions (mcqs), out of which 4 have to be answered correctly. The provider has to take care that there will be no multiple acquisition of points by multiple use of the same material.
  - accreditation is valid for 2 years. The provider may apply for prolongation, which will initiate a new accreditation procedure.

In general, there will be no half points being awarded.

#### IV.

European accreditation is applicable to

- a) international CME/CPD activities in cardiovascular medicine
- b) national CME/CPD activities in cardiovascular medicine, for which international participation can be expected. In this case European accreditation is not competitive but rather subsidiary to national accreditation systems, targeting the participants from foreign countries,
- c) national CME/CPD activities in case that a national accreditation authority does not exist or does not provide accreditation services.

The official working language of accredited CME/CPD activities as well as for documents and administrative matters is English. The only exception may be activities as mentioned under c).

#### V.

Applications for accreditation may be submitted by

- international or national medical/cardiac/cardiovascular societies, universities, professional unions and the associated working groups or affiliated societies of the institutions mentioned above,
- other providers (individual cardiologists, groups of cardiologists or others), who will need a **Letter of Endorsement** from a university, teaching hospital or medical scientific society, by which these institutions take responsibility for the quality and independence of content and presentation.

Furthermore, for each CME/CPD activity a scientific course director has to be appointed, who has to be a physician actively involved in patient care.

ECSF does not support provider accreditation.

#### VI.

Sponsoring may be provided by an unrestricted educational grant. Influence of sponsor(s) on the selection of speakers/authors and/or content must be excluded. This is under the responsibility of the scientific course director. Furthermore, the sponsor(s) may be mentioned at the end of the programme/presentation, but there must be no

- logo of the sponsor(s) on pages/charts of the CME-material
- promotional material included into the CME-material
- mentioning of product names whenever a generic name is available.

The accrediting organisation takes no responsibility that national and/or EU legal requirements regarding sponsoring have been fulfilled by the applicants.

## **VII.**

Satellite symposia cannot be accredited, but so called "Accredited Educational Programmes (AEP)" in the context of the congress of a scientific society or professional union may be accredited. An AEP has to be organized by a scientific or academic organization/institution, which appoints the course director and takes responsibility for the quality and independence of content and presentation. AEP's cannot be part of the corporate communication of the sponsor(s), i.e. no advertisement/announcement of the event or display of webcasts at the congress booth etc.

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