

I. Policy

Content Validation Policy

II. Purpose

All of the recommendations involving clinical medicine in a CME activity must be based on evidence that it 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 CME in support or justification of a patient care recommendation must conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis.

III. Definitions

- A. ACCME – Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education is the nationally recognized accrediting agency for continuing medical education.
- B. *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* – AMA's Physician's Recognition Award Credit System; also, referred as Category 1 CME.
- C. CMA – California Medical Association is an advocacy organization active in the legal, legislative, reimbursement and regulatory areas on behalf of California physicians and their patients.
- D. CME – Continuing Medical Education: 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.
- E. CME Provider – Hospitals, professional societies and other entities that provide accredited CME to physicians.
- F. Content Validation – All content presented in an accredited CME activity be validated as evidence-based.
- G. Evidence-Based - Evidence-based practice refers to the use of research and scientific studies as a base for determining the best practices in a field.

IV. Procedure

- A. CME accreditation cannot be given if activities promoted are:
 - a. Known to be ineffective in the treatment of patients
 - b. Known to have risks or dangers that outweighs the benefits
 - c. Recommendations, treatment or manners of practicing medicine that are not within the definition of CME
- B. CME Committee members have the responsibility of determining if each CME activity requested meets the definition of evidence-based.

- C. When a faculty member is chosen and has accepted the CME responsibility, he/she will be sent a formal letter of confirmation as well as multiple forms to read, sign and complete. One of the forms will be a “Content Validation Form”.
- E. The Content Validation Form will do two things:
 - a. Inform faculty of the mandate to use information/recommendations found only from the evidence-based literature
 - b. List the evidence-based materials from which the information will be gathered and used to make the presentation
- F. CME Coordinator will keep the completed, signed Content Validation Form in both the activity file and electronic file until after the next CME accreditation decision.

V. References

- A. ACCME Standards for Commercial Support
- B. IMQ/CMA CME Accreditation Standards Manual
- C. AMA

VI. Cross-References

- A. None.

VII. Associated Documents

- A. Content Validation Form

VIII. Approvals

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| A. CME Committee | March 15, 2012, March, 2017 |
| B. Medical Executive Committee | April 10, 2012, April 11, 2017 |
| C. Board of Directors | April 17, 2012, April 25, 2017 |