The American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award Credit System

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Disclosure

The content of this presentation does not relate to any product of a commercial interest; therefore, there are no relevant financial relationships to disclose.
Objectives

At the end of this presentation the participants should be able to:

• Describe basic requirements for awarding AMA PRA credits
• Answer questions about the AMA PRA credit system and why AMA PRA credit is important to physicians
• Apply the knowledge gained to the process of appropriately awarding AMA PRA credit
• Cite references to answers to questions about the AMA PRA credit system

Why was the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award (PRA) established?

The AMA PRA was established by the AMA House of Delegates in 1968 to recognize physicians who regularly participate in continuing medical education.

Who determines what is eligible for AMA PRA credit?

• The AMA owns the AMA PRA Credit System
• The AMA Council on Medical Education determines the requirements and eligible learning formats for earning AMA PRA credit
• The Council gathers data from CME stakeholders to determine revisions and additions to the standards and policies
Who can be awarded AMA PRA credit?

AMA PRA credit is awarded to physicians
- M.D.s
- D.O.s
- Equivalent medical degree from another country

May other health care professionals participate in activities that are designated for AMA PRA credit?
- Yes, other healthcare professionals may participate in activities that are designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
- Nonphysicians may not be awarded AMA PRA credit but they may receive a certificate or letter indicating participation in an activity that was designated for credit

Why do physicians need credit?

Physicians are required to demonstrate that they have obtained CME credit by:
- State licensing boards
- Medical specialty societies
- ABMS specialty boards
- Hospital medical staffs
- Insurance groups
- Others
Why is AMA PRA credit important to physicians?
- AMA PRA credit is acceptable for physicians of all specialties
- AMA PRA credit is recognized as an indication that an educational activity met the high standards required by the AMA

What are the categories of AMA PRA credit?
There are two categories of credit
- **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**
  - Awarded by an accredited CME provider
  - Awarded directly by the AMA
- **AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™**
  - Not awarded by accredited CME providers
  - Documented and self-claimed by physicians

How do physicians earn *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*?
- Participate in activities that are designated for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* by accredited CME providers
- Participate in specific activities for which they may apply directly to the AMA for credits
What is the relationship between the AMA and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)/State Medical Societies (SMS)?

The AMA allows CME providers accredited by ACCME/SMS to award AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ for activities that are planned and implemented in accordance with both AMA and ACCME/SMS requirements.

Note: The AMA reserves the right to withdraw the privilege to designate AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ if an organization violates AMA requirements.

What are the ten basic AMA requirements to designate an activity for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™?

Basic Requirements

1) Meets the definition of CME
   
   CME 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 the 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.
Basic Requirements (continued)

2) Appropriate depth and scope for physicians
3) Address demonstrated educational need
4) Purpose/objectives communicated
5) Appropriate learning methodologies
6) Evaluation mechanism used

Basic Requirements (continued)

7) Conform to CEJA Opinions
   • 8.061 Gifts to Physicians from Industry
     ◦ Funds should not go directly to physicians or pay for physicians' expenses
     ◦ Independence
   • 9.011 Continuing Medical Education
     ◦ Attendees – relevant, high quality activities
     ◦ Faculty – Scientifically accurate, evidence based
     ◦ Sponsors – balanced content, independent, within ethical boundaries
     www.ama-assn.org/go/ceja

Basic Requirements (continued)

8) Include a means for provider to record actual credits claimed by each physician participant
9) Designate the activity for credit in advance
   ◦ Must not say “Credit has been applied for”
10) Include the required Designation Statement on promotional materials
What is the required credit designation statement?

The [name of accredited provider] designates this educational activity for a maximum of [number of credits] AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Why did the AMA trademark AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™?

• Protect the integrity of credit system
• Protect accredited providers and physicians
• Protect legal standing when challenged

How and when does the trademark need to be used?

• Complete phrase in italics with trademark symbol
• Required first time in publications (e.g., brochure)
• Required in every designation statement
• Required on certificates (if issued)
• Complete phrase is always required – no ‘Category 1’
How does the AMA monitor CME provider compliance?

- In cooperation with ACCME
- Investigation of complaints
- Review of information in public domain
- The AMA has the right to withdraw the privilege to designate *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* if an organization violates AMA requirements.

What are the learning formats approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*?

**Live Activities**
- Includes workshops, symposia, conferences, regularly scheduled series, journal club, etc.
  - Participant credit
    - 1 hour = 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit
  - Faculty credit may be given for the learning in preparing an original presentation
    - *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit awarded in a 2:1 ratio to participant credit*

**Enduring Materials**
- Includes printed, audio, online activities that can take place at any time
- Learner interaction/self-assessment required
- Appropriate bibliographic sources
  - Credit calculation based on good faith estimate of time to complete:
    - 1 hour = 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit
Approved learning formats (continued)

Journal-based CME
• Article that is published in a peer-reviewed professional journal and is planned and designated for credit by an accredited CME provider
• Reflection/interaction with article content
  ➢ 1 article = 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit

Approved learning formats (continued)

Test Item Writing
• Must be developed for exams by:
  • National Board of Medical Examiners
  • ABMS member boards
  • National medical society peer-reviewed self-assessment
• Must be a robust process which includes a group peer review
  ➢ 1 activity = 10 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits

Approved learning formats (continued)

Manuscript Review
• Original contribution for publication in a medical journal indexed by MEDLINE
• Provider and journal editor must have oversight mechanism to evaluate the quality of the reviews
  ➢ 1 review = 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
Approved learning formats (continued)

Performance Improvement CME
- Structured process with provider ensuring engagement of physicians in each stage
  - Stage A: Assessment of current practice
  - Stage B: PI intervention to patient care
  - Stage C: Evaluate performance improvement
  - Each stage = 5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits; all three stages = 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits

Internet Point of Care
- Provider must establish an oversight process to ensure content integrity
  - Physician cycle includes:
    - Review original clinical question(s)
    - Identify the relevant sources
    - Describe application to practice
  - 1 cycle = 0.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit

For what types of credit may a physician apply directly to the AMA for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™?
- Teaching at live activities
  - 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits for each participant credit
- Publishing articles
  - 1 article = 10 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
- Poster presentations
  - 1 poster = 5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
Direct Credit Activities (continued)

- Medically related advanced degree
  ➢ 1 degree = 25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
- ABMS certification, recertification or MOC
  ➢ 1 certification = 25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
- ACGME residency/fellowship
  ➢ 1 year = 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits

www.ama-assn.org/go/pra

The PRA is 40 years old!

- The AMA Physician’s Recognition Award (PRA) was established in 1968 by the AMA House of Delegates to recognize physicians who regularly participate in continuing medical education
- The PRA is the foundation of the AMA credit system

Why should physicians obtain the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award?

- Demonstrate to public and profession the physician’s commitment to lifelong learning and staying current in medical issues
- Certificate or application accepted by 40 state and 2 territory licensing jurisdictions as documentation of meeting CME requirements
How many credits must a physician earn in order to receive the AMA Physician's Recognition Award?

- For a standard certificate – 50 credits per year with at least 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™
- For a certificate with commendation – 90 credits per year with at least 60 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Application and supporting information:
www.ama-assn.org/go/pra

How can a CME provider work with the AMA to help physicians obtain the AMA PRA?

- The AMA works with specialty societies, hospitals, clinics, etc. to enable groups to apply for the AMA PRA for all eligible physicians
- Ease of application and discounts given for quantity

Questions?
What resources does the AMA have for CME providers and physicians?

CPPD Staff

Additional resources

The PRA and credit system:
Information for accredited providers and physicians: 2006 Revision
www.ama-assn.org/go/prabooklet

The CPPD Report
Published 3 times a year
www.ama-assn.org/go/cppd

Additional resources

AMA Educational Opportunities

- AMA CPPD Webinars
  www.ama-assn.org/go/webinarscppd
- Medical Society Presentations
- Alliance for CME Presentations
- ACCME Accreditation Workshops
Recognizing Physicians Participation in Educational Activities: What physicians should know about the AMA PRA Credit System
www.ama-assn.org/go/pracme@ama-assn.org or 312.464.4668

FAQs
http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/16354.html

Additional resources

AMA
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION