

Centre for CME accreditation

The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University

INTRODUCTION

Continuing Medical Education refers to a specific form of continuing education that helps those in the medical field maintain professional competence and learn about new and developing areas of their field.

These activities may take place as live events, written publications, online programs, audio, video, or other electronic media. Content for the program is developed, reviewed, and delivered by faculty who are experts in their individual clinical areas.

Continuing Medical education courses are developed and delivered by a variety of organizations, including professional associations, medical education agencies, hospitals and education institutions including universities, medical and nursing schools.

Few Countries such as the US and UK allot Credit points for the participants of the CME and requires certain number of points to be gathered every year for the medical professionals to maintain their licenses.

In this scenario, THE TAMILNADU DR .M.G.R MEDICAL UNIVERSITY has made credit points MANDATORY for postgraduates and CRRIs. The University has developed criteria for CME accreditation and allocation of CME credit points for participants of CME in its affiliated or registered institutions and organizations offering such programmes. In future CME programmes conducted under the auspices of the university should follow the following guidelines. This CME Credit points are introduced in the Academic Curricula of UGs and PGs From this Academic Year (2010-2011).

Accreditation is a mark of quality. Accreditation of continuing medical education ("CME") activities assures the medical community and the public that such activities provide students and physicians with information that can assist them in maintaining or improving their practice of medicine.

Accredited providers are those who comply with the Accreditation Policies of The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University.

Mandatory Credit points for CRRIs and Postgraduates

From This academic Year (2010-2011) The Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University is introducing Mandatory CME Credits points to be obtained by CRRIs and Postgraduates as a part of their curriculum.

The Requisite credit points should be submitted by each candidate at the end of the posting /Course to get completion/ appearance for university examination:

1. Post Graduates – (Masters) – 50 credit points
2. Post Graduates – (Diploma) – 40 credit points
3. CRRIs - 25 credit Points

PREREQUISITES FOR CME PROVIDER

The CME provider must fulfill the following essential areas

1. The Institution or organization conducting the CME must be registered with The Centre for CME accreditation of this University.

All requests for registration as CME providers must be made on the appropriate application form. Application to be a provider has to be made directly to the Chairperson, The Centre for CME accreditation. The committee reserves its right to reject any application

2. Written statement of the proposed CME mission, which includes the CME purpose, content areas, target audience, type of activities provided, and expected results of the program should be communicated in the prescribed format to the University Credits committee.
3. The Institution or organization conducting the CME should communicate the purpose or objectives of the activities so the learner is informed before participating in the activity.

4. The Institution or organization conducting the CME should evaluate the effectiveness of its CME activities in meeting by an assessment method made available to the participants before and after the program, so that necessary improvements may be made in the future.
5. All commercial support associated with a CME activity must be disclosed and any specific relations with Drug or surgical companies must be disclosed by the CME Provider during the course of the CME.

PREREQUISITES FOR CME

1. The hospital/ Organization conducting the CME are a registered provider with the University.
2. The CME meetings must be open to all doctors within and outside the hospital.
3. These CME meetings are publicized by way of notices, etc., in public places.
5. The name(s) of the Moderators or Co-ordinators of the CME should be submitted to the Committee.

Moderators or Co-ordinators should comprise of ONE of the following,

- A. Head of Institutions in Teaching Hospitals
 - B. Unit Chiefs of institutions in Teaching hospitals
 - C. Heads of Unit in tertiary care Hospitals.
 - D. Chairman of Chapters of Societies at state level
6. For a CME to be awarded accreditation, it should comprise of a minimum of 25 Attendees per session.
 7. Social events or meals at CME activities cannot compete with or take precedence over the educational events.

Categories of CME

Category 1

Formal and structured learning opportunities offered at International or National or state level by recognized educational or scientific institutions, or professional bodies.

A Congress or a Conference should

- a) Be conducted for not less than 3 full days, a full day being 5-8 hours
- b) Involve speakers of international standing
- c) Contain plenary lectures/symposia
- d) Allow presentation of free communications and posters

Category 2

Activities conducted with a local or regional participant group in mind such as conferences, seminars or symposia organized by recognized educational institutions.

Category 3 - Workshops and courses.

Category 4

- Hands on Training on Models and Skills Lab Workshops
- Operative procedures relayed live to a group of practitioners may be considered for registration as CME/CPD only if they form a practical component of a planned learning activity and the CME Center is provided with information on the learning objectives, content area and how the observers are to be guided during the session.

Category 5 - BLS / ATLS/PLS First Aid Courses

Category 6 – Postgraduate Seminars/ Postgraduate Refresher courses

CME CATEGORY AND CREDITS FOR ATTENDANCE

Category	CME activity description	Credits points attainable for Attendance	
I	Conference or Congress International / National / State level	20 points per conference	
		Half day (2-4 hours)	Full day (5-8 hours)
II	Scientific meetings of chapters of academy/universities/colleges/association/public and private medical institutions	5 points	10 points
III	Workshop/courses	5 points	10 points
IV	Hands on Training on Models and Skills Lab Workshops	5 points	10 points
V	BLS / ATLS/PLS First Aid Courses	5 points	10 points

Credit points for publications

Scientific papers published in refereed journals entitle the author(s) to CME credit as follows:

- 1st (or single) author - 20 credit points
- 2nd author - 15 credit points
- 3rd author (and beyond) - 10 credit points

Credit points for resource persons

The following are included as resource persons:

- Speaker
- Chairperson
- Moderator
- Demonstrator
- Presenter in free communication session
- Presenter of a poster

The amount of CME credit that could be claimed depends on the category under which the activity was registered and the duration of the individual sessions.

The resource person may claim twice the amount of credit that the session participants are entitled to claim. For example, if a participant attending a session is eligible to claim 1 credit, the resource person responsible for it may claim 2 credits.

Any participant who has been awarded any prize for their scientific contribution will be awarded another 10 credit points.

Purely administrative functions such as attending to correspondence, communicating with speakers or funding agencies, or performing secretarial duties are not classified as CME.

Credit points for Single lecture

A single lecture presentation will entitle the participant to claim a maximum of 2 credit points, irrespective of the duration of the presentation.

Reciprocal recognition of CME credit points

Participating in activities organized by accredited institutions abroad such as the Royal Colleges of UK, the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association, the British Medical Association and other similar organizations could be considered for recognition, provided such

educational activities had been accepted by the concerned authority of the country as CME/CPD.

The Certificate of Participation should clearly indicate the credit point value that the participant may claim. A document that does not mention the CME/CPD credits but merely states that the practitioner attended the activity is not sufficient for the above purpose.

Credit points for non-educational activities

Non-educational activities such as service on a medical society may not be cited for claiming CME credit.