

Council of Medical Specialty Societies – Continuing Professional Development Directors Component
Group Feedback

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1. What, from your perspective, are the biggest issues facing the CME community?

The major challenge that has been discussed among the specialty societies is the increasing and constantly changing regulation that is being placed on physicians and affecting their professional development needs. The major source of this pressure is the Maintenance of Certification process. As the CPD profession was moving away from counting credits and toward more effective assessment of learning, the MOC process reinforced the need to track credits. These credit requirements have been inconsistent between specialty boards and typically are dependent on the provision of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* as an indicator of completion. Many societies now see their members focusing primarily on satisfying the credit counts mandated by the certifying board or boards to which they must report for certification purposes. This has made it difficult to engage members in more practice-relevant activities such as registry participation, which may not be accepted for MOC purposes by a certifying board.

The clearest example of this phenomenon is the self-assessment requirement embedded in MOC Part II. The boards have created a variety of “self-assessment credit” requirements, each defined in its own way, and none of which are related to the activity formats defined by the AMA or the accreditation standards set by the ACCME. The lack of consistency between board requirements results in some specialties having relatively low standards and others very strict. Many societies serve learners who are certified by multiple boards which makes the development of activities to satisfy these physicians’ requirements especially difficult.

2. What are your organization’s strengths in terms of your ability to meet those challenges?

The component groups within CMSS have proven to be an excellent forum for societies across the spectrum of specialties to address shared concerns, such as supporting the need of our members to satisfy MOC requirements. These meetings provide opportunities for an environmental scan across specialties and certifying Boards and to share challenges and successful solutions that have been implemented in various settings. It also provides the societies a chance to respond to CPD-related issues with a unified voice. The collaborative nature of the group and the members’ willingness to share their practices and experiences have been a tremendous benefit to those who participate.

3. How would you like to see the ACCME participate in addressing those challenges?

The ACCME could support specialty societies in these ways:

- Advocate to ABMS and the certifying boards for greater consistency in the adaptation of the MOC standards into specific reporting requirements that build on the existing CME terminology and requirements. This is most specifically an issue related to MOC Part II and the self-assessment requirement.
- Advocate to the AMA to expand the existing list of learning formats to include activities, such as learning from participation in a registry, which could satisfy MOC requirements.
- Give greater emphasis to the development of effective learning activities and the outcomes of these activities (including improvements in knowledge) and less to the details of commercial support management within the accreditation process.

These comments reflect the views of the members of the CMSS Continuing Professional Development Directors Component Group and not the official opinion of CMSS or its Board of Directors.