

EDITORIAL**CREDIT HOURS FOR DOCTORS: GUIDELINES BY GUJARAT MEDICAL COUNCIL****Viren Patel**

Medical Science is ever dynamic field demanding continuous efforts from the doctor to become up to date with the advances. However Medical Council of India (MCI) feels that many registered practitioner failed to do so and would not be able to provide advantage of advancement of medical science to their patients. Taking this in to consideration, MCI mulls to make mandatory for doctors to keep themselves updated so that they may apply this information to their practice & thus fortify his/her competence and knowledge by keeping abreast with the latest developments in the field.

This is the whole essence for MCI rules on credit hours system for re registration. According to the new rules, MCI is planning to make it mandatory for all doctors to attend 30 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every five years. If they fail to attend CME, their registration to practice would be suspended.

Gujarat Medical Council has recently released guideline on credit hours for registered practitioner in the state council. According to this A Physician should participate in professional meetings as part of Continuing Medical Education Programs and should earn 30 hours per year or 150 credit hours for every 5 years.¹

According to these guidelines¹, a registered practitioner can get credit hours by means of different ways. A short summery of this is as follows. For the detail reader can use the link mentioned in the reference.

- For participation in each accredited CME; State or National or International Conference; or Workshop will be awarded minimum credit hours as per the schedule of the conference.

Two hours CME	1 credit hours
Half day CME	2 credit hours
One day conference	4 credit hours
Two day conference	8 credit hours
Three day conference	12 credit hours

- Medical teachers can claim 4 CME credit hours per year.
- Student of post-Graduate course e.g. Diploma MD, MS, DNB, MCh, D.M., Fellowships/Diploma & Degree Courses will get 4 credit hours per year for the duration of the courses.
- Paper published in indexed state or national or international journal will entitle the author/co-author CME credit hours as follows.

Type of Publications	Credit hours		
	International Journal	National Journal	State Journal
Original Article	12	8	4
Case Report	6	4	2
Letter to Editor	3	2	1

- Paper presentation (Oral/Poster) in International Conferences will be awarded 3 Credit hours; & in National Conferences will be awarded 2 Credit hours.
- Any chapter published in a text book or update book published by professional bodies will entitle the author/co-authors for credit hours.
- Speakers/Chairman/Co-chairman at any conference/CME/Workshop / training programme will be given one credit hour per talk in addition to the credit hours allotted for that particular academic activity.
- Subscription of the indexed national/international journal will entitle the doctors to five (5) CME credit hours per year for each journal subject to a maximum of ten (10) hours per year.

Considering these guidelines, authors of 'Original Article' in our journal will earn eight (8) credit hours while authors of 'Case Report' and 'Letter to Editor' will get four (4) and two (2) credit hours respectively. Along with this annual subscription of journal will give five (5) additional credit hours.

REFERENCE

1. Gujarat Medical Council - Continuing Medical Education in Modern Medicine in the State of Gujarat. Available on: http://www.gmcgujarat.org/REVISED_CME_GUIDELINES.doc (Accessed on Dec 10, 2012).

* The author is chief editor of this journal.