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Compliance Issue: AMA Designation Statement, What You Must Know and Do

By Alicia Edmiaston

Accredited CME providers are bound by requirements, rules, and regulations. We must comply, not only with the ACCME requirements, but also with requirements set by the American Medical Association (AMA). The AMA, after all, is the owner of the *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* system as well as the organization that initially brought together the seven member organizations that comprise the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).

In 2006 the American Medical Association incorporated several changes within its *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* system. Two of the changes that are the most challenging to us as a CME provider are:

- *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* was asserted as the AMA's trademark, and
- A new AMA designation statement was released.

The AMA gave providers a short period of time to incorporate the changes into their systems and processes. At that time, the OCME made a push through announcements, training sessions, and direct consultation with CME Associates to establish compliance with the AMA's guidelines. This is a reminder to everyone who plans CME activities accredited through the UAMS College of Medicine.

The trademark phrase is:

AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.

Its purpose is to:

- Protect the integrity of the credit system;
- Protect accredited providers and physicians;
- Protect legal standing when challenged.

The phrase, *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* should always be used in its entirety.

- Italics and ™ are required
- Used in every designation statement
- On certificates or transcripts (if issued)

"NEW" Required 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 claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

*Additionally, if the entire credit designation statement is in italics, or if the software does not allow for italics, the credit phrase (**AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**) must otherwise be set off from the paragraph, such as by the use of bolding or quotation marks.*

The AMA does periodically monitor these requirements for compliance. They reserve the right to withdraw the privilege to designate credit from ANY accredited provider, if they find consistent misuse of these requirements. Please help us keep our privilege to offer *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* by making sure your activity brochures and announcements are compliant with these requirements.

For these and other important requirements, please refer to the CME Guidelines for Brochures and Promotional Materials at the CME website.

FALL PERSPECTIVE

Fall is officially here and the holidays are knocking down our doors! The ghouls and goblins have come and gone, and the turkey and dressing will soon be staring us in the face! It's the perfect time for football, family, friends, and a little bit of CME.

After auditing this fall, I have seen many improvements in the areas of closing reports and disclosure. Having speakers sign a disclosure form is only the first step in the process. The speaker must sign the disclosure form prior to the conference, not after. If a financial relationship was disclosed, this constitutes a conflict of interest and needs to be resolved, prior to the conference. Please remember that even if the speaker of your conference has nothing to disclose, the audience must still be informed. A written disclosure method is encouraged, such as posting a sign, displaying a slide, or on a handout. Please make sure to include a copy of the written disclosure with your closing reports.

Thank you for your efforts in sending your closing reports within two weeks for weekly and bi-weekly sessions and within 30 days for monthly or quarterly sessions. There are over 220 RSS sessions per month to review and enter credits. When the session reports arrive late, this then delays physician transcripts from reflecting all of their credits, compounds the workload and makes it difficult to monitor for compliance issues as mandated by the ACCME.

If you have changes to your bar-coded sign-in sheets, please e-mail them to me. It is the most efficient way for me to get them back to you as quickly as possible. If you do not use bar-coded sign-in sheets for your conference, please contact me and I will create one for you. However, if your RSS meets in one of the auditoriums with a badge swipe clock, please have your attendees swipe their badge to record their attendance. It is a faster and a more efficient method for tracking attendance.

Be looking for our next newsletter in January as I will be covering important information on the RSS application process for the upcoming academic year. Happy Holidays!

Lindsay Ratliff, MBA

in the
spotlight:

JACKIE JAGERS

by Lea Mabry, MEd

Jackie Jagers is our CME Associate of the Quarter. She works diligently to juggle the demands of providing accredited CME activities. We applaud Jackie for displaying excellence in her work and her attitude. Thanks Jackie!!



How long have you worked for Arkansas Children's Hospital? How long have you been planning CME activities?

Nineteen years and I have been planning CME activities for seven years.

What do you like best about your work to support the CME activities offered through ACH?

The best part of supporting CME activities at ACH are the physicians and nurses. I take pride in knowing that I am contributing to the

continued education of our healthcare professionals which gives them the knowledge they need to provide care, love and hope to our patients.

What is your advice for planning successful CME events?

My advice would be to "follow through". There are so many pieces which have to be completed to have a successful CME event.

What is the most surprising thing that has happened or that you have observed during your CME work?

I had a physician have his wife select a special piece of jewelry for me as a thank you for my support in planning a successful CME activity.

What do you like to do for fun and relaxation?

I love spending time with my family, shopping and helping others.

What is an interesting fact about you?

I am a gospel singer and have recorded a song which is featured on a CD.

Increase the Learning Power:

A Model for Case Conferences & Journal Clubs

by Lea A. Mabry, MEd

Are you and the participants in your case conferences and journal clubs experiencing a rich, engaging learning environment? The Accreditation Council of Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) requires CME providers to analyze changes in learner competence, patient care processes, and/or outcomes of care. ACCME also encourages the identification of factors or barriers outside learners' control that might impact patient outcomes. Price and Felix (2008) encouraged interactivity and engagement in learning by helping learners make connections from the activity to actual practice while identifying the barriers that may keep the learners from integrating them into practice. They recommended:

- Avoid using only fascinating cases that are rarely seen. Choose cases or identify evidence-based articles that can be applied to practice.
- Effective case conferences or journal clubs present the learners with evidence that allows integration into practice. Include a series objective such as: Attendees will be able to identify at least two learnings they will incorporate into their practice.
 - ♦ During the last five minutes of each session:
 - Ask attendees to identify the key concepts from the presentation.
 - Ask attendees to write down for themselves 1-2 learnings that they plan to use in practice.
 - ♦ During the first five minutes of the following session, ask attendees:
 - Who tried any of the key learnings from the last session?
 - Which were successful, which were not, and why?
- Compile a summary of key learnings, and later, document successes and barriers identified as a result of trying these learnings. Send a copy of this summary to the CME Office.
- Share resultant changes/improvements in practice and identified barriers with your department chair and colleagues.

This model not only meets CME requirements, but also creates a rich learning opportunity among participants and establishes continuity between series sessions.

Price, D.W. & Felix, K.G. (2008). Journal clubs and case conferences: From academic tradition to communities of practice. *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions*, 28(3), 123-130.

An Interview with Valerie Thomas, BBA

by Lea Mabry, MEd

We celebrate Valerie Thomas this quarter. Valerie is our beloved Registrar who has been with the OCME since April 2005. She is our "behind the scenes" person who makes conference and meeting planning look easy and effortless. Registration tasks and meeting logistics are always accomplished with her warm smile and positive attitude. Thanks Valerie! Keep up the good work!



What is your role in the OCME?

My primary role in the OCME is the Registrar and Conference Manager for our Managed Conferences. A Managed Conference is a formal activity that is managed from beginning to end by OCME. As the Registrar, I am responsible for all registrations for the Managed Conferences and making sure that each registered participant has a name badge, certificate, syllabus materials and make sure all registration fees are collected. As the Conference Manager, I take care of onsite meeting logistics, such as catering, table setups, etc. and oversee the onsite preparations for each Managed Conference.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

The most challenging aspect of my job is when we have several Managed Conferences that are only a few days apart and meeting the deadlines of having everything ready for the next conference.

What is the most rewarding?

The most rewarding aspect of my job is when the participants comment that it was a good conference and they liked how well it was organized and they enjoyed everything, makes all the long hours worthwhile.

What do you like to do away from the office?

Away from the office, I enjoy hanging out with my family and friends. I enjoy traveling and my favorite destination is Destin, FL. I love being on the beach.

What would you like us to know about you?

Besides writing articles for our newsletter, I also enjoy writing and have written a few unpublished children's books. One of my future goals is to become a published author.

Remember! Whenever you need a CME form, please get a new one from

<http://www.uams.edu/cme/coursedirectors/default.asp>

to ensure you use the latest version.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 20 **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders Conference for Physicians**
UAMS I Dodd Wilson Ed Bldg, Little Rock, AR
- 20 **19th Annual Professional Development Day**
UAMS COPH 8th Floor Auditorium

JANUARY

- 31-Feb 6 **AACH 2010 Winter Course From Ideas to Action**
Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA

FEBRUARY

- 19-20 **Geriatric Medicine Update**
Crowne Plaza, Little Rock, AR
- 26 **Inaugural Laboratory Testing Update for Primary Care**
UAMS Center on Aging, Little Rock, AR

MARCH

- 3-5 **Focus on Fungal Infections 20**
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA
- 6-13 **14th International Symposium on Inner Ear Medicine & Surgery**
Hotel Theresa, Zell, Austria
- 18-20 **Symposium on Critical Care and Emergency Medicine**
Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa, Hot Springs, AR
- 19-20 **13th Annual Rasco Symposium on Colorectal Cancer**
UAMS, Walton Auditorium, Rockefeller Cancer Institute

APRIL

- 17 **Diabetes Update 2010**
UAMS I Dodd Wilson Education Bldg.
- 21 **Best Practices**
Embassy Suites, Little Rock, AR
- 23-24 **AR Trauma Update 2010**
Peabody Hotel, Little Rock, AR
- 30 **The Diamond Conference**
Peabody Hotel, Little Rock, AR

TIPS to Help Your Next Meeting Go Green

by Valerie Thomas

Have you ever taken the time to think how your meetings or events impact the environment? Research has shown that on average, events and meetings produce 20 pounds of waste per person. If meeting planners made an effort to reduce the waste produced during their meetings or events, it could make a huge difference to the environment. Here are a few tips that can help you start thinking about ways that your meetings or events for 2010 can go green.

- Send out e-mail invitations and surveys.
- Provide information and registration for conference online and via email.
- Use badge holders and lanyards made of post-consumer recycled content, and ask that attendees return their badges at the end of the conference.
- Instead of printing out handouts or a syllabus, post conference presentations online.
- Eliminate or reduce paper used for conference agendas and programs by offering materials online or project agenda on the wall.
- Rather than a flip chart, ask speakers to use an overhead projector or whiteboard.
- Encourage exhibitors to bring only what they think they will need.
- Check with the hotel or venue to see if they have implemented any green initiatives to see if they have any ideas to assist you with your meeting

These are just a few tips to give you some ideas or things to think about when planning your next meeting or event. We are many people but only have one world and it takes each one of us doing what we can to protect, preserve, and save our environment. Happy Holidays!!!!

ONLINE CME TRANSCRIPTS ARE HERE!

Participants in activities sponsored by the UAMS College of Medicine and certified for **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**, now have the ability to view and print their own CME transcripts 24/7.

Detailed instructions for accessing transcripts can be found on our website

www.uams.edu/cme

Window to the Web

UAMS CME
<http://www.uams.edu/cme/default.asp>

ACCME
<http://www.accme.org/index.cfm>

AMA
<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2922.html>

AR Medical Board
http://www.armedicalboard.org/support/sub_downloads.asp#Rules

