

Group Learning Activities (Section 1) SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION

The following summarizes the main requirements for accreditation of programs as Accredited Group Learning Activities by the Canadian Thoracic Society under Section 1 of the framework of continuing professional development activities as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Accredited Group Learning Activities (including conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops) are approved for a maximum of one year from the start date of the activity.

For full requirements, please review the Application Form and National Standards for Section 1 Group Learning Activities. Accreditation will not be granted retroactively.

Applications for accreditation can be obtained through the CTS website. Applications should be submitted at least 8 weeks prior to program delivery.

General Requirements

- The program or course must be developed or co-developed by a physician organization with the physician organization assuming full responsibility for the program ensuring that the content of the event is scientifically valid, objective and free of bias.

“A physician organization is defined by the Royal College as a not-for-profit group of health professionals with a formal governance structure, accountable to and serving among others, its specialist physician members through: continuing professional development, provision of health care, and/or research.”

- The planning committee must include members of the target audience.
- The program is based on a needs assessment that identifies the perceived and unperceived needs of the target audience.
- Based on the needs assessment, learning objectives are developed for the program as a whole, and for each individual session. The learning objectives must be published on the program brochure and/or handout materials. Learning objectives should be written from a learner’s perspective and state what a learner will know or be able to do after attending a session. Refer to [CTS Faculty Package](#) for more details on writing learning objectives.
- Program evaluation and feedback forms have been developed and specifically address questions on whether or not the program and individual session objectives were met and if the sessions were balanced and free from commercial or other inappropriate bias. The evaluations also provide opportunities for participants to reflect and identify what they have learned and its potential impact to their practice. It also asks which Can MEDS Roles were addressed during the activity.



- The physician organization must disclose to participants all financial relationships of speakers, moderators, facilitators, authors as well as all members of the scientific planning committee (within the past two years) with any for-profit and not-for-profit organization, regardless of its connection to the topics discussed or mentioned during this event (conflict of interest declarations). The SPC must also have procedures in place to be followed if a conflict arises prior or during the CPD activity.
- Representatives of a sponsor or any organization hired by a sponsor cannot participate in decisions related to CPD program elements, including but not limited to learning objectives, program content, speakers, moderators, facilitators, authors, educational methods etc.
- The physician organization or SPC is responsible to receive any financial and in-kind support for the development of the CPD activity. The physician organization assumes responsibility for the distribution of these funds, including the payment of honoraria and expenses to faculty. Planning Committee cannot be required to accept advice from a sponsor as a condition of receiving financial or in-kind support. The terms and conditions of the sponsorship must be documented in a written agreement signed by the physician organization or SPC and the sponsor.
- A variety of learning formats should be used to support the identified learning objectives. At least 25 per cent of the total education time must be allocated to interactive learning.
- No drug or product advertisements (i.e. pharma products) may appear on, or with, any of the written materials (preliminary or final programs, brochures, or advanced notifications) for this event. Commercial exhibits or advertisements must be arranged in a location that's clearly and completely separated from the accredited CPD activity.
- The description of therapeutic options must use generic names (or both generic and trade names) and not reflect exclusivity and branding on all presentations and written materials.
- Sponsors must be recognized and disclosed on a separate page from the educational content with the following standard acknowledgement statement: *"This program has received an educational grant or in-kind support from (names of funding organizations)."*

Linking or alignment of a sponsor's name (or other branding strategies) to a specific educational session or section of an educational program within an accredited group learning activity is prohibited.

- Social activities and unaccredited CPD activities cannot take place at a time or location that interfere or compete with or takes precedence over accredited CPD activities. Unaccredited CPD activities cannot be listed or included within activity agendas, programs or calendars of events (preliminary or final).

The Royal College prohibits the reference to accreditation status prior to accreditation being awarded. You may only refer to or advertise an event as accredited when your application is approved, and notification is received.

Requirements – Following Program Delivery

- Attendees are provided with a certificate of attendance that includes the following statement:
“This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program (MOC) of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Canadian Thoracic Society. You may claim a maximum of # hours (credits are automatically calculated).”
- The organization that developed the activity is responsible for maintaining all records (including attendance records) for 5-year period.