IMPORTANCE OF CME CREDITS IN LIFELONG LEARNING PROCESS

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DISCLOSURE

No conflicts of interest

This presentation represents my personal point of view as chairmen of UEMS/EBNM CME Committee
1. Review the concepts of CME (Continuing Medical Education), CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and Lifelong Learning (LLL).

2. Introduce the importance of accredited CME/CPD lifelong learning programs to maintain high quality healthcare services.

3. Provide an overview of CME/CPD worldwide and in Europe.

4. Describe the UEMS/EACCME accreditation system and discuss the added value of ECCMEC credits.

5. Discuss the future challenges in education and practice for Nuclear Medicine Physicians.
“Health systems cannot deliver high quality care to all Europeans without a well-trained health workforce of sufficient capacity. People's health and safety very much depends on this. Health professionals need to be equipped with the right skills and competences throughout their careers, to stay up-to-date with technological advances and new clinical approaches. Of course, with the increasing mobility of health professionals, continuous professional development is even more important. This is why the recently adopted revised Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications encourages Member States to ensure such continuous professional development, so as to ensure safe and effective practices”. *

**Tonio Borg** European Commissioner for Health at Annual Conference of the Standing Committee of European Doctors Brussels, 04 April 2014

*NOTE: At EU-level, the role of CPD to help safeguard patient safety within the context of cross border mobility has been addressed in several legal instruments: i.a. in the Council Recommendation on patient safety, in Directive 2011/24/EU on patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare, and most recently, in Directive 2013/55/EU on the recognition of professional qualifications according to which “Member States shall ensure, by encouraging continuous professional development, that health professionals are able to update their knowledge.. to maintain safe and effective practice”
CPD can be defined as “the educative means of updating, developing and enhancing how doctors apply their knowledge, skills and attitudes required in their working lives” (UEMS Basel Declaration on CPD 2001)

CPD covers the continuum of **life-long medical education**, at all stages of a career.

CPD involves not only educational activities to enhance medical competence in medical knowledge and skills (CME), but also in management, team building, professionalism, interpersonal communication, technology, teaching, and accountability.

CPD is an ethical obligation for all health professionals to ensure their professional practice is up-to-date and can contribute to improve patient outcomes and quality of care.
GLOBAL TREND in CME-CPD

In Canada Mandatory MOC for Specialists since January 2000 on the basis of a 5-year cycle. Names and credentials of specialist who successfully complete the CPD program are published on the College’s website.

In US Maintenance of Certification for Physicians: a minimum of 500 CME credit hours, approved by the (ACCME), are required over the 10-year cycle.
GLOBAL TREND in CME-CPD

MOC for NM Specialists in US: total of 25 CME category 1 credits (at least 70% related to nuclear medicine, including self-assessment modules) and 25 CME category 2 credits (reading articles on journals, internet etc.) are required annually.

THE CME GATEWAY

The CME Gateway allows you to view, print or generate reports of your CME credits from multiple organizations.

- If you already have an account with this Web site, please log in using your user name and password.
- If you need to create an account, click on the SIGN UP NOW link at the bottom of this page.

SNM Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment program modules approved by ABNM and ABR for CME credit allow molecular imaging/nuclear medicine professionals to satisfy MOC requirements.
Two of the largest countries in the world, China and Indonesia, now have national credit systems for CME/CPD. In Indonesia, CME/CPD is mandatory for doctors, nurses, and pharmacists. Physicians in practice must complete 250 credits every year to achieve a certificate of competence and to have their license renewed. In China, it is necessary for career advancement as well as re-registration (25 credits/year required for physicians). In India, 9 of 28 states now have mandated CME for physician re-registration.
Since January 2011, CPD has become mandatory in Nigeria. From January 2012, every doctor in practice is required to show evidence of at least 20 CPD credit units collected in the preceding year before renewal of their annual practicing licenses.

In Qatar CME/CPD accreditation system, will be implemented from early 2016. According to the annual CPD requirements, the practitioners must complete and document a minimum of 40 credits each year. The CPD cycle requirements stipulate that the practitioners complete and document a minimum of 80 credits every two years.
Mandatory CPD is the most common model for the majority of professions in the majority of EU/EFTA countries. For HCPs mandatory lifelong-learning programs are in place in 20 out 31 countries for doctors, midwives, dentists and pharmacists and in 21 out of 31 countries for nurses.

EAHC/2013/Health/07 Study concerning the review and mapping of continuous professional development and lifelong learning for health professionals in the EU-Final report November 2014.
**CPD in EUROPE: Doctors**

**Mandatory CPD:** Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway (primary care specialists), Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UK.

EAHC/2013/Health/07 Study concerning the review and mapping of continuous professional development and lifelong learning for health professionals in the EU-Final report November 2014.
Requirement for mandatory CPD varies between 20 and 100 credits/hours per year for doctors, between 10 and 100 credits/hours per year for dentists, between 4 and 60 credits/hours per year for nurses, between 4 and 80 credits/hours per year for midwives and between 3 and 50 credits/hours per year for pharmacists.
Accreditation of CPD differs significantly across the countries and the professions. National CPD accreditation systems are most likely to exist for doctors (more than 90% of respondents), followed by pharmacists (66%), dentists (65%), and nurses and midwives (62%).

EAHC/2013/Health/07 Study concerning the review and mapping of CPD and LLL for health professionals in the EU. Final report November 2014.
The objectives of UEMS include the promotion of quality patient care through the harmonization and improvement in the quality of specialists' medical care throughout the European Union- CME CPD is one of the 3 pillars of UEMS Strategy.

The European Accreditation Council for CME

**Purposes (EACCME®)**

**HARMONISATION of CME/CPD in EUROPE**

- Providing quality standards for accreditation
- One procedure, similar standards for evaluation
- Linking the national CME regulatory bodies in a system of mutual recognition of accreditation of CME activities
- Providing a system in which CME credits obtained abroad in EACCME accredited activities are recognized by the national CME regulatory bodies

**MUTUAL RECOGNITION THROUGHOUT EUROPE**

http://www.eaccme.eu/
The European Accreditation Council for CME (EACCME®)

The UEMS-EACCME® is the largest CME accreditation authority in Europe. The UEMS-EACCME® system is based on accreditation of single events, both life and e-learning.

UEMS-EACCME® accreditation is a guarantee of high quality standards. UEMS-EACCME® accreditation provides a guarantee to participants from all over the world that:

• The educational event is really focused on the needs of the learner
• The educational methods are appropriate, and supportive of good learning.
• The scientific material is evidence based and free of bias
• The provider uses an independent assessor of the quality of content and declares any conflict of interest
• There is confirmation of the achievement of learning objectives
• There is transparency in terms of the funding of the meetings.
• There is independence in terms of the development of the program, and of the project as a whole.

“Appropriate, Evidence-Based, Unbiased, Transparent, Independent”
Based on an agreement signed in 2006, for all CME/CPD events in Nuclear Medicine, the quality assessment of the programme as well as the suggested number of CME credits are independently made by the EBNM, according to the EACCME® quality standards.
EACCME® CREDIT SYSTEM

27 European CME credits (ECMEC)

For the accreditation of live educational events (LEEs), the EACCME credit system is based on one ECMEC per hour with a maximum of three ECMECs for a half-day event and six ECMECs for a full-day event. (Fractions of credits are not awarded and no more than six credits per day are allowed, even if the duration of the LEE is more than 6 hours).

For e-learning events, ECMECs are awarded according to the length in minutes, up to three credits for a 210-minutes e-learning module. (Three credits is the limit for e-learning module applications. The EACCME taskforce states that more then 210 minutes of an e-learning activity gives no additional benefit).
The European Accreditation Council for CME (EACCME®)

EACCME Credits are recognized in most EU Countries, in US (AMA) and in Canada (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada).

EACCME Credits facilitate the transfer of credits among European countries, among different specialties, in case of migration of a specialist within and outside Europe.
The European Accreditation Council for CME (EACCME®)

EACCME Credits are important to physicians because some countries and hospitals require a defined amount of annual credits to maintain medical licenses.

EACCME Credits are a guarantee of quality for patients, employers and regulatory bodies.
LIFE LONG LEARNING
Future Challenge for MD’s and Health Care Professions

“Nowadays the world has changed
.......The times they are a-changing”
Bob Dylan 1964

Future medicine will move beyond traditional reactive medicine toward proactive (P4) medicine: predictive, personalized, preventive and participatory.
LIFE LONG LEARNING
Future Challenge for MD’s and Health Care Professions

“Professionals will need to be confident with the science behind targeted therapies, molecular medicine, genomics, proteomics”
LIFE LONG LEARNING
Future Challenge for MD’s and Health Care Professions

PET/MRI: the Imaging Technology of the Future

“multimodality imaging”
LIFE LONG LEARNING
Future Challenge for MD’s and Health Care Professions

“new radiopharmaceuticals”
LIFE LONG LEARNING
Future Challenge for MD’s and Health Care Professions

“globalization”
LIFE LONG LEARNING
Future Challenge for MD’s and Health Care Professions

- Worldwide quality standards for robust and effective CME/CPD programs
- International reciprocity of CME/CPD credits and recognition of CPD/LLL programs.
- To reach similar standards of practice and gain similar trust for doctors and health care professions worldwide.

Why Doctors, Like Airline Pilots, Should Not Be Completely Trusted?

“I would never get on an airplane if I didn’t feel highly confident that the pilot was fully competent. In order to fly a commercial airplane a pilot has to undergo rigorous and continuous training and testing……

**Doctors are like pilots, they should demonstrate their competency.**

Pilots have a difficult job that requires intense and continuous training, but medicine is more complex by several orders of magnitude”. Larry Husten-medical journalist- Forbes 1/22/2015
LIFE LONG LEARNING
Future Challenge for MD’s and Health Care Professions

“Doctors will be increasingly required by patients, employers, layers, regulatory bodies to demonstrate their competences and skills.

CME/CPD credits will become the best tool to demonstrate that they continue to meet criteria to provide a high quality care to patients.”

Ideas from the second UEMS conference on CME/CPD: new EU directives on a patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare and professional qualifications

Teresio Varetto • Durval C. Costa
Medicine Education = CONTINUUM

from undergraduate to postgraduate and onwards....... throughout one’s medical professional life....

Zlatko FRAS, MD, PhD, FESC
UEMS Past- President
(UEMS EACCME 2011 CME/CPD Conference)

"Once you stop learning, you start dying"
~ Albert Einstein ~

Thank you for your kind attention!

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