

**(Model) Regulations**  
**Continuing Education and**  
**Continuing Education Certificate**

**Art. 1**

**Objective of Continuing Education**

The continuing education of physicians is intended to maintain and constantly update their professional competence.

**Art. 2**

**Content of Continuing Education**

Taking into account scientific findings and new medical procedures, continuing education is intended to communicate the knowledge of medicine and medical technology necessary to maintain and update professional competence. Continuing education should comprise both specialised and interdisciplinary knowledge and the learning of practical clinical skills. In this context, continuing education should cover all medical disciplines in a balanced manner. Continuing medical education also encompasses the improvement of communication and social skills. Continuing medical education also includes methods of quality assurance, quality management and evidence-based medicine. Nationally applicable, standard specifications regarding the reasonable scope of continuing education are to be observed.

### **Art. 3**

#### **Continuing Education Methods**

- (1) The physician is free to choose the nature of his/her continuing education. The manner in which knowledge is acquired is to be geared to the individually different forms of learning behaviour.
- (2) Insofar as continuing education particularly takes place through participation in continuing education events according to Para. 3 No. 2, the physician should comply with the obligation to undergo continuing education by attending continuing education measures recognised by the State Medical Chamber.
- (3) Suitable methods of continuing education include, in particular:
  1. Media-based personal study (e.g. professional literature, audiovisual teaching and learning materials, structured interactive continuing education);
  2. Attendance at continuing education events (e.g. conferences, seminars, group exercises, courses, colloquia, quality circles);
  3. Continuing clinical education (e.g. time as visiting doctor, case presentations);
  4. Curriculum-based content, e.g. in the form of curricular continuing education, specialist training courses prescribed for a specialist qualification under the Regulations on Specialist Training, supplementary courses of study.

### **Art. 4**

#### **Organisation of Proof of Continuing Education**

- (1) The State Medical Chamber promotes the continuing education of Chamber members by offering its own continuing education measures and by recognising suitable continuing education measures as a basis for proof of compliance with the obligation to undergo continuing professional education.
- (2) The purpose of promoting the obligation to undergo continuing education, and of proving compliance with it, is particularly served by the Continuing Education

Certificate of the State Medical Chamber (Art. 5), which is awarded, on the basis of the regulations below, to every physician upon application, subject to the proviso that the regulated requirements are fulfilled.

### **Art. 5**

#### **Continuing Education Certificates of the State Medical Chamber**

A Continuing Education Certificate is issued if, within a period of [three] [five] years prior to application, the physician has completed continuing education measures, the sum total of which reaches the minimum rating of [150] [250] points, determined according to the rules in Art. 6.

Only the continuing education measures regulated in Art. 6 Para. 2 can be considered for acquisition of the Continuing Education Certificate; a further prerequisite is prior recognition of the continuing education measures to be credited pursuant to Art. 7. This does not affect Art. 12. The recognition procedure is governed by Arts. 7 to 11.

### **Art. 6**

#### **Rating of Continuing Education Measures**

- (1) The continuing education measures are rated using a points system. The basic unit is a 45-minute continuing education unit. The categories and the details of the rating scale are defined in Para. 2.
- (2) The following categories of continuing education measures are suitable for the Continuing Education Certificate and are rated as follows:

Category A:           Presentation and discussion  
                                  1 point per continuing education unit; max. 8 points per day

Category B:           Multi-day conferences at home and abroad  
                                  If no proof according to Category A or C is furnished:  
                                  3 points per half-day or 6 points per day

- Category C: Continuing education whose concept envisages the involvement of every individual participant (e.g. workshops, working groups, quality circles, Balint groups, work in small groups, supervision, case-based conferences, literature conferences, practical exercises)
1. 1 point per continuing education unit  
1 bonus point per event up to 4 hours
  2. Max. 2 bonus points per day
- Category D: Structured interactive continuing education via print media, online media and audiovisual media with proven qualification and evaluation of the learning success in written form
- 1 point per exercise unit
- Category E: Personal study by means of professional literature/books and teaching materials
- A maximum of [30] [50] points for [three] [five] years will be recognised in Category E
- Category F: Scientific publications and presentations
1. Authors are awarded 1 point per contribution
  2. Speakers/quality-circle moderators are awarded 1 point per contribution/poster/presentation *in addition* to the points for participants
- Category G: Time as a visiting doctor
1. 1 point per hour; max. 8 points per day
- Category H: Curriculum-based content, e.g. in the form of curricular continuing education measures, specialist training courses pre-

scribed for a specialist qualification under the Regulations on Specialist Training, supplementary courses of study.

1. 1 point per continuing education unit

Success check: 1 bonus point for Categories A and C

- (3) The State Medical Chamber issues supplementary guidelines on the rating of the continuing education measures, these being based on the nationally applicable, standard criteria ["..."]. The guidelines also define the exceptions in which the maximum crediting of rating points may be exceeded in justified exceptional cases in the individual Categories in the event of otherwise equivalent continuing education.

#### **Art. 7**

##### **Recognition of Continuing Education Measures**

- (1) In principle, continuing education measures in Categories A to D, G and H of Art. 6 Para. 2 can only serve as a basis for award of the Continuing Education Certificate if they were recognised by a State Medical Chamber prior to their implementation. For measures in Category F of Art. 6 Para. 2, the physician must furnish suitable proof when submitting the application for award of the Continuing Education Certificate.
- (2) Continuing education measures offered by other organisers are recognised in accordance with Arts. 8 and 9.

#### **Art. 8**

##### **Prerequisites for Recognition of Continuing Education Measures**

- (1) Recognition of a continuing education measure presupposes that the continuing education content to be communicated

1. Is in keeping with the objectives of the code of professional conduct and these Continuing Education Regulations,
2. Gives consideration to the nationally applicable, standard recommendations of the State Medical Chambers on quality assurance in continuing medical education (in: "Recommendations of the German Medical Association on Continuing Medical Education") [alternatively: the criteria of the German Medical Association, dated ...],
3. Is free of business interests.

Continuing education should generally be open to all physicians. Organisers and speakers must disclose economic ties with industry to the State Medical Chamber.

- (2) A physician must always be appointed to bear scientific responsibility for continuing education measures in Categories A to D, G and H of Art. 6 Para. 2.

### **Art. 9**

#### **Recognition Procedure for Continuing Education Measures**

- (1) Recognition is granted upon application by the organiser. The application must state the name of the responsible person according to Art. 8 Para. 2.
- (2) The Board of the State Medical Chamber adopts guidelines relating to the recognition procedure. In uniform manner for all measures in Categories A to D, G and H of Art. 6 Para. 2 open to consideration, the guidelines define the prerequisites for recognition, based on the criteria of the German Medical Association, in respect of the following details:
  1. Application deadlines
  2. Content of applications
  3. Methods of checking the learning success
  4. Lists of participants
  5. Participant certificates

6. Special regulations for the recognition of individual categories of continuing education.
- (3) The organiser must provide a written declaration of compliance with the recommendations of the German Medical Association pursuant to Art. 8 (1) 2.
- (4) The organiser can be commissioned by the State Medical Chamber to send, with the consent of the participating physicians, the proof of their participation in the recognised continuing education event directly to the State Medical Chamber.

#### **Art. 10**

#### **Recognition of Continuing Education Organisers**

On application, a suitable organiser can be given the promise by the State Medical Chamber, for all the events staged by it or for specific events, that the continuing education events will be recognised without being reviewed individually. Conditions are attached to this promise. It must be ensured in this context that the organiser demonstrably observes the provisions of these Regulations when selecting and rating the events.

#### **Art. 11**

#### **Mutual Recognition of Continuing Education Measures**

The State Medical Chamber recognises continuing education measures recognised by the chamber of another healthcare profession as a basis for award of a Continuing Education Certificate.

#### **Art. 12**

#### **Continuing Education Abroad**

- (1) Continuing education measures implemented abroad are recognised if they essentially correspond to the requirements of these Continuing Education Regulations. The need for prior recognition can be dispensed with.

- (2) The physician must furnish proof of the nature of the continuing education that permits the verification of compliance with the criteria according to Art. 8.