



**German Medical Association
(Joint Association of the State Chambers of
Physicians in Germany)**

**(Model) Regulations on
Continuing Medical Education***

As amended on 29/05/2013

Art. 1

Objective of Continuing Medical Education

The continuing medical education (CME) of physicians is intended to maintain and continuously develop their professional competence in order to guarantee a high level of patient care and assure the quality of medical practise.

Art. 2

Content of Continuing Medical Education

Taking into account new scientific findings and medical procedures, continuing medical education communicates the knowledge of medicine and medical technology necessary to maintain and further develop professional competence. It should cover specialised and interdisciplinary knowledge, the acquisition of practical clinical skills, as well as the improvement of communication and social competencies.

Art. 3

Continuing Medical Education Methods

- (1) Physicians are free to choose the methods of their continuing medical education. The acquisition of knowledge is to be geared to individual learning behaviours.
- (2) Suitable methods of continuing medical education are set out in categories A to K under Art. 6, Para. 3.

Art. 4

Promotion of Continuing Medical Education

The state chamber of physicians promotes the continuing education of physicians by offering its own continuing education measures and by recognising suitable continuing education measures offered by third parties.

Art. 5

The Continuing Medical Education Certificate of the State Chamber of Physicians

- (1) The CME Certificate serves as proof of fulfilment of the obligation to undergo continuing medical education.
- (2) A CME Certificate is issued if, within a period of five years prior to application, the physician has completed continuing medical education measures, the sum total of which according to the provisions of Art. 6 amount to a minimum of 250 points.

- (3) Only those continuing medical education measures regulated in Art. 6, Para. 3 that have been recognised pursuant to Articles 7 - 10 or which may be credited according to Articles 11 and 12 can be taken into consideration for acquisition of the CME Certificate.
- (4) The period set out in Paragraph 2 is lengthened accordingly for physicians who take time out from practising their profession due to maternity leave, parental leave, care leave, or because of a period of illness lasting more than three months.

Art. 6

Rating of Continuing Medical Education Measures

- (1) Continuing medical education measures are rated using a points system. The categories and individual ratings are set out in detail in Paragraph 3.
- (2) The current version of the German Medical Association's "Recommendations on Continuing Medical Education" should be observed.
- (3) The following categories of continuing medical education measures are suitable for the CME Certificate and are rated as follows:

Category A

Presentations and discussions:

1 point per 45 minute CME unit

1 additional point for each documented learning evaluation per CME measure

Category B:

Multi-day conferences in Germany and abroad that are not covered by other categories:

3 points per half-day or 6 points per day

Category C

Continuing medical education which conceptually envisages the involvement of every individual participant (e.g. workshops, working groups, quality circles, peer review, Balint groups, work in small groups, supervision, case-based conferences, literature conferences, practical exercises):

1 point per CME unit

1 additional point per measure up to 4 hours with a maximum of 2 additional points per day

1 additional point for each documented learning evaluation per CME measure

Category D

Continuing medical education activities as print media or in electronic form with proven qualification through a learning evaluation in digital or written form:

1 point per 45 minute CME unit after successful learning evaluation

Category E

Personal study by means of professional literature/books and teaching materials:

A maximum of 50 points over five years will be recognised in this category.

Category F

Scientific publications and presentations

Authorship: 5 points per scientific publication

Presentation delivery/ quality-circle moderation/ scientific coordination: 1 point per activity, e.g. posters, presentations, not counting the points for personal participation.

The maximum number of points attainable in this category is 50 points over five years.

Category G

Time as a visiting physician:

1 point per hour, a maximum of 8 points per day

Category H

Curriculum-based content, e.g. in the form of curricular CME measures, subject matter from specialist training courses for a specialist qualification as set out in the Specialty Training Regulations, subject matter from additional courses of study:

1 point per 45 minute CME unit

Category I

Tutor-supported online CME measures with proven qualification through learning evaluation in digital or written form:

1 point per 45 minute CME unit

1 additional point per 45 minute CME unit which completely fulfils the German Medical Association's Quality Enhancing eLearning Criteria

Category K

Blended learning CME measures in the form of a combination of online modules supported by a tutor and live events that are coordinated in terms of their didactics and content:

1 point per 45 minute CME unit

1 additional point per 45 minute CME unit which completely fulfils the German Medical Association's Quality Enhancing eLearning Criteria

- (4) Supplementary guidelines on the rating of continuing medical education measures are issued by the state chamber of physicians.

Art. 7

Recognition of Continuing Medical Education Measures

- (1) As a matter of principle, organisers must gain recognition of CME measures from the state chamber of physicians prior to their implementation. This does not apply to categories E and F.
- (2) For the measures in Category F of Art. 6, Para. 3, the physician must furnish suitable proof.
- (3) Recognition applies to CME measures that are implemented within the area of jurisdiction of the state chamber of physicians; the location of the organiser is decisive for the recognition of CME measures from categories D and I.

Art. 8

Prerequisites for the Recognition of Continuing Medical Education Measures

- (1) The recognition of a continuing medical education measure presupposes that:
1. The contents of the CME unit comply with these Regulations on Continuing Medical Education;
 2. The requirements of the Professional Code are adhered to;
 3. The contents are free from economic interests and organisers and speakers disclose any conflicts of interest.
- (2) CME measures should be open to all physicians.
- (3) For the CME measures listed in categories under Art. 6, Para. 3, a physician must always be appointed as a scientific coordinator and be present at live events. The appointed coordinator must submit a declaration disclosing any possible conflicts of interest. Any conflicts of interests on the part of the organisers, the scientific coordinators, or the speakers must be disclosed to the participants of the CME measure.

Art. 9

Recognition Procedure for Continuing Medical Education Measures

- (1) The state chamber of physicians enacts guidelines regulating the following areas in particular:
 1. Application deadlines;
 2. The content and form of applications and declarations;
 3. Learning evaluation methods;
 4. Lists of participants;
 5. Participant certificates;
 6. The forwarding of participant lists by the organisers by means of the *Elektronischer Informationsverteiler (EIV)*;
 7. Supplementary requirements for the recognition of certain categories of CME measures listed under Art. 6, Para. 3;
 8. Appeal procedures;
 9. Fees
- (2) Recognition is granted upon application by the organiser. The application must state the name of the scientific coordinator according to Art. 8, Para. 3.
- (3) The organiser and the scientific coordinator must provide a declaration of compliance with the current version of the "Recommendations on Continuing Medical Education" of the German Medical Association.

Art. 10

Recognition of Continuing Medical Education Organisers

On application, a suitable organiser can be given an assurance by the state chamber of physicians that specific CME measures that it plans and implements within the area of jurisdiction of that state chamber of physicians will be recognised without these having to be reviewed individually. This assurance is subject to revocation and may be supplemented by auxiliary conditions. It must be ensured that the organiser demonstrably observes the provisions of these Regulations on Continuing Medical Education when implementing the CME measures.

Art. 11

Mutual Recognition of Continuing Medical Education Measures

- (1) Continuing medical education measures recognised by other state chambers of physicians will be credited for the CME Certificate.
- (2) CME Certificates issued by other state chambers of physicians will be recognised.

- (3) Continuing medical education measures recognised by the chamber of another healthcare profession can be credited for the CME Certificate of the state chamber of physicians.

Art. 12

Continuing Medical Education Abroad

(1) Continuing medical education measures completed abroad may be credited for the CME Certificate as long as they comply with the fundamental requirements of these Regulations on Continuing Medical Education.

(2) The physician must furnish proof of the nature of the continuing medical education that permits the verification of compliance with the requirements of these Regulations on Continuing Medical Education.