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Accreditation of CME Providers

The Educational Secretariat of the Danish Medical Association, on the background of various international accreditation methods, has crafted a manual for accreditation of CME providers. In the manual a number of quality requirements are listed which can form a starting point for an evaluation of whether a provider lives up to the quality requirements set forth.

Accreditation in this connection applies to a time limited preliminary approval of the CME provider, on the background of the fulfilment of the criteria described.

The primary aims of accreditation are:

- To contribute to the development of quality of the CME activities offered
- To be able to document quality and
- To give the individual consumer/doctor the possibility to make a qualified choice between the many CME offers available

The manual consists of 11 criteria which are provided as guidance in a process which documents that the organisation:

- Has a relevant aim
- Has the necessary resources available to be able to fulfil the aim identified
- Makes an effort to fulfil its own aim in practice
- Undergoes a continuous development which brings it closed to the fulfilment of the ideal aims.

The 11 criteria comprise a description of:

- The educational institution on the organisational level (criteria 1-4)
- The institution's academic, systematic working methods (criteria 5-6)

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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- The good course – methodological organisation of courses (criteria 7-9)
- The relationship to external cooperation partners (criteria 10-11)

The criteria are recognised by the Executive Council of the Danish Medical Association and have been tested by the DMA Educational Secretariat in its educational activities with external support from the Norwegian Medical Association. No decision has been made as to how formalised a system must be established in connection with an accreditation, and preliminary the manual's criteria are considered voluntary by the relevant CME providers in order to test the general relevance of the criteria.

Overview of the criteria

1. The CME provider must have a written target declaration which deals with aims, purposes, and main functions as well as target groups for the provider's CME activities.
2. The provider must have access to the resources and an organisational structure which corresponds to the declaration of aims.
3. The provider must continually be involved in relevant development activities.
4. The provider must have a programme of professional development for its staff and others who are involved in planning or carrying out CME activities.
5. The provider must make use of recognised methods to fulfil and analyse CME needs and to a significant extent must involve the target groups themselves in the coverage of their own training needs.
6. The individual doctor has an individual responsibility for his or her learning. Autonomous learning is an important principle for continuing medical education. The provider must therefore support and inspire autonomous learning.
7. Learning methods: content and methods of the providers learning activities must correspond to the stated goals and the needs of the target group.
8. The provider must evaluate the effectiveness of the overall training programme and of each individual learning activity.
9. The provider must be able to provide the participants with relevant documentation and course certification.
10. The provider must assume responsibility for the fulfilment of the accreditation principles when the training activities are carried out in cooperation with non-accredited organisations.
11. The provider must have a declared policy for its cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry and other sponsors.