

ACCME December 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Executive Summary

Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education

The ACCME Board reviewed and endorsed the proposed, revised ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. The proposed Standards were prepared by the Task Force on Protecting the Integrity of Accredited Continuing Education in collaboration with ACCME staff, based on feedback received from the stakeholder community. The Board discussed a report from the Task Force and thanked the members for their work overseeing the year-long review and revision process. The goal of the initiative is to streamline, clarify, and modernize the Standards, and to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness in the changing healthcare environment. The effort supports the [ACCME's strategic goal to assure the quality of accreditation](#). The ACCME has opened a call for comment about the proposal and invites all stakeholders to participate. More information is available on the [ACCME website](#).

Strategic Discussion: Future of Accredited CME

The Board invited Carolyn Clancy, MD, Deputy Under Secretary for Discovery, Education, and Affiliate Networks, Veterans Health Administration, to share her thoughts on the current and future state of accredited continuing medical education (CME), the Veterans Health Administration's utilization of CME as a performance management resources, and the role of the accreditation system in driving CME toward the future. Representatives from the [ACCME's founding and member organizations](#) joined the discussion. The Board thanks Dr. Clancy for her insights and perspective. The discussion was part of an ongoing series of forums convened by the Board with special guests to identify strategic opportunities for the ACCME and the CME community to support efforts to transform American healthcare.

Promoting the Value of Accredited CME

The Board discussed the importance of promoting the value of accredited CME to learners and other stakeholders. To build awareness, the ACCME will encourage and expect CME providers to use the [accredited provider mark](#) in accreditation statements, promotional and educational materials, and other communications. The use of the provider mark will communicate a consistent, visual identity for accredited CME and help learners distinguish between accredited and nonaccredited education.

Advancing Data Systems

The Board directed ACCME staff to continue to evolve and enhance the functionality of the Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS) to simplify the data-reporting process for CME providers and increase the value of data for stakeholders, including continuing education providers, clinicians, researchers, certifying and licensing boards, and government agencies. The effort supports [ACCME's Strategic Goal 5: Advance Data Systems](#).

Accreditation Decisions

The ACCME made 50 accreditation and 20 progress report decisions.

Accreditation

- Sixteen CME providers achieved Accreditation with Commendation.
- Twenty-five CME providers achieved Accreditation. Of those, 15 providers need to submit progress reports.
- Three CME providers received Probation and need to submit progress reports.
- Five initial applicants received Provisional Accreditation; one initial applicant did not achieve accreditation.

Progress reports

- Nineteen CME providers demonstrated compliance with all the requirements previously found in noncompliance.
- One CME provider did not yet demonstrate compliance with all requirements.

Currently, there are 1,689 continuing Education providers in the ACCME System, including ACCME-accredited, state-accredited, and jointly accredited providers.

Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™

The ACCME made 24 accreditation decisions and nine progress report decisions for [Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™](#).

Joint Accreditation

- Nine jointly accredited providers were reaccredited; five providers need to submit progress reports.
- One jointly accredited provider received Probation and needs to submit a progress report.
- Thirteen initial applicants achieved Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education. Of those, six providers need to submit progress reports. One initial applicant did not receive accreditation.

Progress reports

- Nine jointly accredited providers demonstrated that all criteria have been brought into compliance.

These decisions have also been made by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC collaborate to offer a single pathway for accreditation for organizations offering interprofessional continuing education (IPCE).

International Collaboration among Accreditors

The Board reaffirmed the [substantial equivalency](#) of the CME accreditation system of the European Board for Accreditation in Cardiology (EBAC). This recognition extends until December 31, 2023. The substantial equivalency framework facilitates recognition between continuing education accreditors and the ACCME. Substantial equivalency is a relationship between accreditors based on shared principles and values, while recognizing and accepting differences.

ACCME 2020 Budget

The Board approved a budget that includes ongoing investment in technology designed to streamline and improve service to the CME community. The Board's goal is to take a prudent, conservative approach to financial management, while expanding the quality of ACCME's services in fulfillment of the ACCME's strategic goals.

Elections

The Board was pleased to elect these volunteers:

Accreditation Review Committee

Rebecca Daniel, MD, 2020 Chair
Michael Ruhlen, MD, MHCM, 2020 Vice Chair
Loretta Thompson, MBA

Thank You to Our Volunteers

The ACCME is only successful in its mission because of its dedicated volunteers. The Board had the privilege of paying special tribute to the following volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary, long-term service.

Service Awards for Completion of Service

Board of Directors

Arlene Bierman, MD
Sandhya Malhotra, MD
Robert Perelman, MD

ARC

Timothy Holder, MD, FAAFP
Linda N. Santos, MA
Brooke Taylor, MPH

CRR

Joel Dickerman, DO

Surveyors

Kolette Massy
Samantha Mattiucci, PharmD
Lawrence Sherman

Surveyor Achievement Awards

Diana Durham, PhD: 50 surveys
Shelly B. Rodrigues, CAE: 50 surveys
Brooke Taylor, MPH: 25 surveys