

Accredited CME Delivers

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Accredited continuing medical education (CME) plays an invaluable role helping physicians and healthcare professionals improve patient care.

The evidence is in. Accredited CME:

Improves patient safety.

CME has been shown to be one of the most effective methods for improving physician performance.^{1, 2}

Controls spending.

Unnecessary medical procedures, prescriptions, and hospital readmissions are averted.^{3, 4}

Increases physician recruitment and retention.

CME has been linked to a decrease in physician burnout and turnover.^{5, 6, 7, 8, 9}

Protects physician learners.

Commercial influence in medical education puts learners at increased risk.¹⁰ Accreditation protects the integrity and independence of medical education, ensuring it is accurate and based on best practices.^{11, 12}

Uses teams to improve care.

Interprofessional teams are empowered to work more effectively together to achieve their organization's quality improvement and strategic goals.¹³

Expands preventative care.

Accredited CME has a proven track record of life-saving interventions. It has been linked to increases in stroke identification, timeliness of care, cancer screenings, pediatric immunizations, and more.^{14, 15}

For physicians, accredited CME can improve performance by focusing on the unique needs of individual learners.

For organizations, it can be a catalyst for change, providing practical solutions to many of their most pressing problems.

For references, see page 2.

For organizations looking to innovate, investing in accredited CME can provide a remarkably cost-effective solution. CME professionals know how to improve performance, eliminate waste, and inspire and reward valued employees. CME is designed to plan, assess, and create change.¹⁶

Engagement and participation in CME is at record levels, with roughly 242,000 accredited educational activities and over 21.9 million physician interactions reported in 2025.¹⁷

Organizations that invest in accredited CME can expect a meaningful return on their investment—it makes change possible for physicians, teams, and our larger healthcare system.

References

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- ¹¹ Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. "[Standard 2: Prevent Commercial Bias and Marketing in Accredited Continuing Education.](#)" *Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education.*
- ¹² Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. "[Standard 1: Ensure Content is Valid.](#)" *Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education.*
- ¹³ Reeves, Scott, Simon Fletcher, Hugh Barr, Ivan Birch, Sylvian Boet, Nigel Davies, Angus McFadyen, Josetta Rivera, and Simon Kitto. "[A BEME Systematic Review of the Effects of Interprofessional Education: BEME Guide No. 39.](#)" *Medical Teacher* 38, no. 7 (2016): 656-668.
- ¹⁴ ACCME-accredited providers who achieved Accreditation with Commendation in July 2021-March 2022 reported success in increasing cancer screenings, pediatric immunizations, vaccinations, stroke identification and more. They also reported decreased mortality rates through smoking interventions and alternatives to opioid prescriptions.
- ¹⁵ The Texas Medical Association accredited provider Gulf Coast AHEC reported using targeted accredited CME to reduce the occurrence of patient sepsis cases in their state.
- ¹⁶ Moore, Donald E. Jr, Kathy Chappell, Lawrence Sherman, and Mathena Vinayaga-Pavan. "[A Conceptual Framework for Planning and Assessing Learning in Continuing Education Activities Designed for Clinicians in One Profession and/or Clinical Teams.](#)" *Medical Teacher*, (2018).
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