

Appendix 4: Interprofessional Continuing Education

What is interprofessional continuing education?

Interprofessional continuing education or IPCE is “when students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.”*

Students from two or more professions? What does that mean?

We provide education, so the individuals who attend our activities are students. The healthcare team is made up of more than just physicians. Nurses and pharmacists are just two of the professions that work collaboratively with physicians to care for patients. If nurses or pharmacists attend one of our activities, they are students just like the physicians in attendance are.

Why should I care?

We are now approved for Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™. This is a collaboration between the ACCME, the ANCC, and the ACPE. The AAPA and COPE† have also joined the collaboration. Achieving this accreditation allow us to offer each of these credit types separately or in any combination.

So I can get credit for nurses or PAs now?

Yes, as long as a nurse or PA is involved in planning your activity. Your planning committee must match your target audience.

This means that we can no longer give CME credit if an activity doesn't have a physician involved in planning.

But I can get more than one type of credit?

Yes, as long as the activity is designed by the team for the team.

Here are the rules:

The planning process for educational activities classified as “interprofessional” must demonstrate:

- An integrated planning process that includes health care professionals from 2 or more professions.

* Interprofessional Education Collaborative Expert Panel. (2011). Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice: Report of an Expert Panel. Washington, D.C.; Interprofessional Education Collaborative.

† ACCME: Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education

ANCC: American Nurses Credentialing Center

ACPE: Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

AAPA: American Academy of PAs

COPE: Council on Optometric Practitioner Education

- An integrated planning process that includes health care professionals who are reflective of the target audience members the activity is designed to address.
- An intent to achieve outcome(s) that reflect a change in skills, strategy, or performance of the health care team and/or patient outcomes.
- Reflection of 1 or more of the interprofessional competencies to include: values/ ethics, roles/ responsibilities, interprofessional communication, and/or teams/teamwork.

What else should I know?

Just because your activity doesn't have a combination of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, PAs, and optometrists doesn't mean it's not interprofessional. There are a lot of other people on the healthcare team. There are therapists, social workers, and administrators. Or dieticians and psychologists. Many more than those mentioned here. As long as your planning committee matches your target audience, your activity is interprofessional. And we have a special credit type for that – IPCE Credit. Everyone can claim this credit type to show that they have participated in learning focused on the healthcare team.

What if I'm still confused?

Contact us! We're happy to help you learn about this exciting new way to think about CE.