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**NC-CME Completes a Vital Step Toward Validating a Credential for CME Professionals: Certification Exam Ready for Beta Testing**

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The National Commission for Certification of CME Professionals (NC-CME) is developing a certification exam for persons who are employed in the continuing medical education (CME) field. The Certified CME Professional credential (CCMEP) is expected to become an important measure of competence for CME professionals who develop educational activities essential to more than 700,000 practicing physicians in the United States.

In the face of closer scrutiny by the profession, government and the public, educators and their funding sources are experiencing increasing pressure to demonstrate the integrity of CME initiatives. A new pioneering NC-CME certification program will benefit the health of the public by offering organizations a way to verify the knowledge and skills of their CME staff. The examination will allow employers to monitor and document their ability to be compliant with national guidelines developed by the Accreditation Council for CME (ACCME), the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General (HHS OIG).

The final examination is one portion of a credentialing process that includes formal education, continuing education, and experience. "We believe that competent CME Professionals need to be able to do more than pass an exam," noted Jack Kues, PhD, President of NC-CME. "We have developed a point system that will document their general knowledge and experience with educating practicing physicians."

National experts have defined key competencies that constitute requirements for the role of a CME Professional. An on-line survey has verified key domains of competence in CME. The specified domains include: 1) Learning Principles, 2) Educational Interventions, 3) Relationships with Stakeholders, 4) Leadership/Administration & Management, and 5) Knowledge of the CME Environment.

Next steps include the beta-testing of the certification exam to further establish content validity. The Beta Test will be administered to qualified individuals at two locations during the month of May: San Francisco on May 19th (CBI Grants Conference) and Vancouver on May 27th (CME Congress 2008). Following validation of the test the exam, the final exam will be made available at more than 200 test centers throughout the US during three time periods in 2008: June 13-30, September 13-30, and December 13-30. More dates for 2009 will be announced shortly.

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NC-CME is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization created in 2006 by an independent group of CME professionals committed to serving the public by creating a standard of competence for persons who create, deliver, and/or support CME programs. NC-CME is incorporated in New Mexico and operates under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. For further information, go to [www.NC-CME.org](http://www.NC-CME.org)