

NC-CME Receives Award for Innovation, Achieves Milestone in Credentialing of CME Professionals

The National Commission for Certification of CME Professionals (NC-CME) has received the 2009 Award for Innovation in Continuing Professional Development for the CME Profession, a recognition provided only once per year by the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education. "The award is a validation of the extensive time and effort put into the development of the credential by 70-plus volunteers during the past three years," said Karen Overstreet, EdD, RPh, CCMEP and NC-CME President.

Preceding the award ceremony on January 30 in San Francisco, NC-CME announced the credentialing of 52 new Certified CME Professionals (CCMEPs). Since its inception in June 2008, the CCMEP credential has been earned by a total of 157 persons who work in the CME field. It is expected to become an essential measure of competence for the professionals who develop continuing education programs for the more than 700,000 practicing physicians, 100,000 nurse practitioners and 70,000 physician assistants in the United States.

The NC-CME certification program will benefit the health of the public by offering stakeholders a way to verify the knowledge and skills of CME staff; eligibility for the CCMEP credential includes documentation of education, experience, and a passing score on a 3-hour examination. The credential allows employers to monitor and document their ability to comply with national guidelines developed by groups such as the Accreditation Council for CME (ACCME), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General (HHS OIG).

Also during the San Francisco meeting, NC-CME convened committee chairpersons to begin planning for Form 2 of the certification exam. "Because the CME enterprise is constantly changing to reflect new dynamics in the national scene, we're working now to effectively update the CCMEP exam and launch Form 2 in September," stated Scott Hershman, MD, CCMEP, chair of the Exam Development Committee. Sharyn Lee, RN, MS, CCMEP, newly appointed board member and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee remarked, "We have committed to providing the Board of Directors with a 3-year Strategic Plan that will move us from a start-up organization into the realm of well-established certification organizations."

The validated certification exam will be available at more than 200 testing centers throughout the US during four fixed time periods in 2009: March 13-30, June 13-30, September 13-30, and December 1-30. Registration for each testing period closes at midnight on the last day of the preceding month. Candidates may register online 24/7 to sit for the exam on a date and at a location of their choosing. Documentation of education and experience relevant to the CME field is required in order to sit for the exam.

Names of all individuals who have successfully passed the exam and have been designated as Certified CME Professionals (CCMEPs) are currently posted in the National Registry at www.NC-CME.org

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NC-CME is a private, not-for-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© (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. For further information, go to www.NC-CME.org