Credit Systems for Continuing Medical Education in Canada

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There are two credit systems in Canada:

- **Maintenance of Proficiency Program:**
  - College of Family Physicians of Canada
- **Maintenance of Certification Program:**
  - Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
Commonalities

- Both programs based on principle that
  - Responsibility for own education
  - Learning should be practice based
  - Individuals of the appropriate college must be on planning committees
  - Each college responsible for their own credits
  - Based on sound educational principles
Commonalities 2

- Both programs require.
  - Accumulation of CME credits over a 5 year cycle.
  - Credits are required for designation.
  - Both are based on the principle of reflection on practice.
Schön’s Cycle

Knowing in Action

Surprise

Apply to Problem

Reflecting on Action

Reflection in Action

= TACIT Knowledge
MAI NPRO

- Started maintenance of certification in 1977
- MAI NPRO started in 1995
- Four principles of family medicine
  - Patient doctor relationship is central to family medicine
  - Family physician is a skilled clinician
  - Family medicine is community based
  - Family physicians a resource to a defined population
Must submit 250 credits every five years
- >125 need to be accredited CME M1 and M-C
- Proof of credits can be requested at any time
- Members responsible to send in credits.
- Local credits valid if practicing outside North America
Credits

- M 1 credits: Any accredited CME
- M 2 credits: Non accredited CME
- M-C credits: Special credits of enriched educational content.
  - Used to be compulsory, now voluntary
Accreditors

- CME Offices in Canada
- Provincial Chapters of the College of Family Physicians
- For MAINPROC the College of Family Physicians of Canada
M 1 Credit Activities

- CME meetings
- Rounds
- Journal clubs
- Faculty development (75 credits/5 years)
- Academic papers (75 credits /5 years)
- Research in family medicine
- E-learning
- Self test modules
- Practice audit
- Clinical traineeships
MAI NPRO C Activities

- Approved courses
- Practice based small group learning
- Clinical traineeships
  <5 days, reflection 2 months later. Max 24 credits.

- Advanced life support
- Pearls (3 credits)
- Practice audits
- Emergency Medicine examinations
Pearls™

- Formulate a reflection question
- Seek appropriate information
- Evaluate the information
- Make a practice decision
- Evaluate the effect of the decision
Practice Audit

- Define the problem
- Literature review
- Develop a guideline standard
- Review charts
- Change practice
- Reflect
Accreditation Application
M1 & C

- CCFP member input
- Content relevant to family medicine
- Individualized needs assessments *
- Specific instructions to speakers
- Format conducive to learning
- Participants evaluate program
Accreditation Application

M1 & C

- 70% small group *
- Ethical standards
- Post program reflection *
Maintenance of Certification

- Modeled after MOPs program in Australia
- Need 400 credits within 5 years
- Credits for fulfilling activities related to specialist physician roles.
Can Meds 2000

- Medical expert
- Communicator
- Collaborator
- Manager
- Health Advocate
- Scholar
- Professional
## Framework of CPD Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Accredited group learning activities</th>
<th>Rounds, Journal clubs, CME courses, meetings</th>
<th>1 credit per hour No maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Other learning activities</td>
<td>Reading, non accredited meetings</td>
<td>1 credit per hour Maximum 100 credits/5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Accredited self assessment pr.</td>
<td>Self assessment Programs, simulators</td>
<td>2 credits/hr. No maximum</td>
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</tbody>
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## Framework of CPD Options (Cont)

| 4 | Structured learning projects | PLP’s Traineeships | 1 credit per hour  
|   |                              |                     | No maximum         |
| 5 | Practice review and appraisal| Audits based on own practice | 2 credits per hour |
| 6 | Ed devt, teaching, research  | Publication, teaching, research | 1 credit per hour  
|   |                              |                     | Now no maximum     |
MAI NPORT

- MAI NPORT is the electronic portal through which one accesses the personal learning portfolio.
- Following slides describe the components of MAI NPORT.
Credit Summary

- An automated summary of all points earned and entered in the personal learning portfolio.
- Participants enter their own credits electronically.
Personal Learning Diary

Enter the Personal Learning Projects
  - Arise from practice
    - Date
    - Time
    - Stimulus to learning
    - Learning topic (ZOE)
    - Learning Question
    - Summary
    - Result
Zones of Expertise

- All questions can be categorized into zones of expertise (ZOE).
- ZOE will allow the learner to note the changing emphasis on practice.
- A ZOE could be considered a learning map.
All Personal Learning Projects are entered into a Question Library.

The library is available to know what peers are learning.

Hot links to the person who entered the PLP

Good for needs assessment

Can review own record over time.
Approving Credits

- Meetings and courses have preapproved credits.
- Credits can be given by RCPSC National Specialty Societies and CME Offices.
- There is an accreditation process for credit approvers.
Credit Validation Program

- Since credit recording is on an honor system an audit of documentation is done on an annual basis on 3% of the returns.
- Documentation must be kept by the physician in case of audit.
Participation

- Roughly 90% of all active members of RCPS participated in 2006
  - Psychiatry 93%
  - Internal medicine 85%

*Alberta – similar for Canada*
What if someone does not enter credits?

- There is an annual minimum number of credits.
- If you fall behind you are contacted by the RCPSC to see what they can do to help you get the credits needed.
List of Fellows

- Fellowship in the RCPSC is dependent upon successful participation in the Maintenance of Certification program.
- This is a public record of those who keep up.
- After first year 85% filed.
Recertification and Relicensure

- Recertification at the College Level
  - Participation in CPD credit system

- Relicensure at the licensing body level
  - Agreement that CPD Credit systems plus questions about health status and legal issues plus additional requirements e.g. PAR or office visit results.