

Report #2, Committee on Accreditation and Continuing Medical Education

TO: Minnesota Medical Association House of Delegates  
Convening September 17, 2008

The Committee on Accreditation and Continuing Medical Education (CACME) coordinates sponsorship of continuing medical education (CME) activities and accreditation of organizations that provide CME for area physicians. Members of the committee are Hossein Gharib, M.D., M.A.C.P., M.A.C.E., chair; Robert C. Moravec, M.D., vice chair; Bruce E. Adams, M.D.; Donald S. Asp, M.D.; Kathleen D. Brooks, M.D.; Michael L. Daly Jr., M.D.; Thomas E. Elliott, M.D.; Joseph J. Martinelli, M.D.; Anthony C. Orecchia, M.D.; Thomas J. Satre, M.D.; Richard J. Schindler, M.D.; John D. Tobin, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.; Richard A. Wehseler, M.D.; and Jack L. Wilson, M.D. Drs. Asp, Daly, and Moravec serve on the committee's subcommittee on CME resources, which designates CME credit between meetings of the full committee. Assisting the committee are MMA staff Jane Phillip and Vicki Westling.

### **CME Mission**

The committee reviewed and revised its mission statement in May 2008 to reflect changes in the organizational mission of the MMA and to clarify the expected results of the CME program. The revised CME mission of the MMA is "to ensure excellence in the provision of CME for physicians in order to improve the delivery and quality of health care in Minnesota." The expected results of the program are as follows: "Each MMA CME activity will evaluate changes in physician competence. Where possible, changes in physician performance and/or patient outcomes may also be measured. The MMA CACME will annually assess the overall program's positive impact on physician competence to aid in improving the CME program."

### **CME Program**

In 2005, the ACCME granted the MMA continued accreditation for four years. As a CME provider, the MMA complies with the ACCME Updated Accreditation Criteria and Standards for Commercial Support and the American Medical Association (AMA) criteria for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit<sup>TM</sup>*, as well as the AMA ethical opinions on gifts to physicians from industry and ethical issues in CME. The CME program is scheduled for resurvey in early 2009.

During 2007, the MMA directly sponsored three CME conferences: the Day at the Capitol, a second annual coding billing and reimbursement coding seminar, and CME sessions at the Annual Meeting. The MMA worked with nonaccredited organizations such as state specialty societies in the joint sponsorship of 75 CME activities. MMA CME activities provided 537 continuing education credits to 3,304 physicians and 3,202 other health care professionals, a substantial increase over the previous year.

The committee continues to publish a CME calendar in *Minnesota Medicine* and on the MMA website, which includes information about the MMA's CME and accreditation programs, as well as links to resources for live CME conferences, online CME, and CME enduring materials such as audiotapes, videotapes, and CDs.

### **Accreditation Program**

In 2005, the ACCME granted the MMA continued recognition for four years as an accreditor of CME providers. The accreditation program is due for resurvey in early 2009. The program is

implementing new procedures and forms to comply with the updated criteria.

The MMA has accredited the following 26 organizations to provide CME activities for physicians in Minnesota: Albert Lea Medical Center—Mayo Health System, Albert Lea; Austin Medical Center—Mayo Health System, Austin; Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, Minneapolis and St. Paul; East Metro Medical Society Foundation, St. Paul;; Emergency Physicians Professional Association in Edina; Fairview Ridges Hospital, Burnsville; Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina; Fairview University Medical Center—Mesabi, Hibbing; Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare, St. Paul; Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital, Grand Rapids; HealthEast Care System, St. Paul; Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis; Immanuel-St. Joseph’s—Mayo Health System, Mankato; Lakeview Hospital, Stillwater; Minnesota Sports Medicine, Minneapolis; North Memorial Health Care, Robbinsdale; Olmsted Medical Center, Rochester; Regina Medical Center, Hastings; Rice Memorial Hospital, Willmar; Ridgeview Medical Center, Waconia; St. Cloud Hospital, St. Cloud; St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Brainerd; St. Luke’s Hospital, Duluth; SMDC Health System, Duluth; State Operated Services, St. Paul (newly accredited in August 2007); and Stratis Health, Bloomington.

Virginia Regional Medical Center, Virginia, has voluntarily withdrawn from the accreditation program.

The CACME conducts site surveys and relies on annual reports to monitor accredited providers. Since July 2007, it has done seven site surveys. During 2007, MMA-accredited providers sponsored 6,102 credits for 36,951 physicians and 36,462 other health care professionals.

### **Summary**

The CACME is proud of the excellent reputation the MMA’s accreditation and CME programs have earned over the years. The CME and accreditation programs offer opportunities for many Minnesota physicians to meet their licensing and specialty CME requirements by offering high-quality, locally produced CME activities. In addition to providing CME credit for conferences produced by nonaccredited organizations, the joint sponsorship program has helped several organizations gain CME planning experience as they prepared to become accredited CME providers.

As the CACME completes implementation of the ACCME’s new criteria over the next year it will continue to identify and implement best practices in CME and accreditation through networking and collaboration with other CME providers and state medical societies, attendance at the ACCME/state medical society meetings, use of learning tools developed by the ACCME, and discussions in committee meetings.

I thank the members of the committee and staff for their contributions to the CME and accreditation programs.

Hossein Gharib, M.D., M.A.C.P., M.A.C.E.  
Chair