Resources for Implementing the ACCME/TMA Accreditation Criteria

CME Mission Statement

**Criterion 1.** The provider has a CME mission statement, *approved by the provider’s governing body, that includes expected results articulated in terms of changes in competence, performance, or patient outcomes that will be the result of the program.*

**Importance of the Mission Statement in the CME Program**

The CME mission (separate from the organizational mission statement) provides a framework of purpose and action for the accredited provider’s CME program.

To further demonstrate the importance of establishing a CME mission statement that is specifically tailored to an organization’s expected results, several other criteria directly link to the CME mission. They are as follows:

**Planning**

**Criterion 3:** The provider generates activities/educational interventions that are designed to change competence, performance, or patient outcomes as described in its mission statement.

**Overall CME Program Evaluation**

**Criterion 12:** The provider gathers data or information and conducts a program-based analysis on the degree to which the CME mission of the provider has been met through the conduct of CME activities/educational interventions.

**Criterion 13:** The provider identifies, plans and implements the needed or desired changes in the overall program (e.g., planners, teachers, infrastructure, methods, resources, facilities, interventions) that are required to improve on ability to meet the CME mission.

**Component of the CME Mission Statement – Expected Results**

Accomplishments of the CME program through its CME activities in terms of change in:

- physician competence, or
- physician performance, or
- patient outcomes.

**Please note:**

- Be sure to specify which level of results your organization intends to achieve. The CME program does not have to achieve all three levels. Your organization may choose only one or a combination of the three.
- Competence means “knowing how to do something …the ability to apply knowledge, skills and judgment in practice,” and performance means “what one actually does in practice, based on competence.”
- For example, related to the content areas, target audience, and types of activities offered at an organization:
  - Physicians will have strategies for ……. **Competence**
  - Physicians will implement strategies to ……. **Performance**
Activity(ies) will contribute to change in patient health status in the area(s) of .... Patient Outcomes

Example 1 — Competence
In selected lectures in the cardiovascular care monthly series, participants will be asked on the evaluation form to state what elements of the information presented in the lecture will be incorporated into their practice. This will be accomplished with either a paper evaluation form to be completed and returned at the conclusion of the lecture, or with an audience response system to record responses in aggregate. Data gathered from this process will enable the CME Committee to determine effectiveness of activity content in meeting identified practice gaps.

Example 2 — Performance and Patient Outcomes
For activities in the area of state public health initiatives, follow-up outcomes evaluations are sent to learners of activities three to six months after the completion of the activity to determine the degree to which the learners are actually implementing information acquired in the activities. It is expected that 50% of learners used the information in their practice to improve patient care.

Further, public health initiatives will be based on data secured from the Texas Department of State Health Services. A comparison of the same data used in initial needs assessment will be conducted at an appropriate time interval to determine if there have been improvements, i.e. number of cancer survivors or number of children immunized.

Approval by Governing Body
To ensure that the CME program is utilized at all levels of the accredited organization and that it receives the necessary allocation of resources needed to accomplish its purpose, seek approval and input from the governing body on a regular basis. The governing body is identified by the accredited organization and is a group above the CME Committee in the organizational structure.

*TMA addition in C1