

CME FAQ #1

The differences among CME credit, nursing credit, and CEUs is a common question. UHS-PEP is a nationally accredited provider by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) accredited to designate **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** (CME credit) for physicians.

Other health professions, including nursing, have their own accreditation systems and formulae for designating/awarding credit for CE activities. It is sometimes difficult for non-physicians to understand the relationship among those systems, and their equivalency, if any, to CME credit.

We hope the following information is helpful in this regard. Please note that the phrases **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** and "CME credit" refer to the same thing.

- UHS-PEP is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
- CME credit for physicians only (**AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**) is designated and awarded on an hour for hour basis for participation in the content, exclusive of housekeeping, instructions and social amenities (e.g., welcome announcements, coffee breaks, etc.)
- Per the requirements of the American Medical Association, which owns and trademarks **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**, physicians are the **ONLY** participants who can earn/receive/be awarded such CME credit; physicians receive a Certificate of Attendance documenting the credit awarded;
- Non-physicians who attend a CME-designated activity are provided a Certificate of Participation which verifies that they participated in an activity with so many CME credits; they do not actually earn/receive/be awarded CME credit, rather a certificate verifying how much credit was designated for that activity.. The non-physician participant can then take that documentation to their professional organization for determination of equivalency. In this case, we only report the number of CME credits and do not undertake any equivalency verification or computation. This documentation is generally sufficient for most non-physician participants;
- In addition, we can certify generic CEU credits, which according to the CEU accreditation framework, are computed on the basis of 10 hrs.of participation = 1.0 CEU credit; this is a different system, a different "currency," if you will, from CME credit. In those cases, your program might only have 1.5 CEUs when the same activity is designated for 15.0 CME credits. These generic CEUs may not be of declining value to select non-physician health care professionals, who seem to be increasingly reliant upon their professional bodies to accept and interpret the Certificates of Participation described above; those entities interpret and convert the x-number of CME credits into the appropriate number of nursing/pharmacy/etc. credits desired.
- Finally, please note that in general, many people use the phrases "CME Credit" and "CEUs" interchangeably and it is important to review the information above each time.
- For more information or questions, please call 804/828-3640 or write to CMEInfo@vcuhealth.org

References

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/education-careers/continuing-medical-education/physicians-recognition-award-credit-system.page?>