

EDITORIAL

“Continuing Medical Education” (CME) is a form of education where a physician updates its knowledge & skills by learning new developments mostly in its respective field. Learning methods may be attending conferences, lectures, participating in live operative workshops, audio/video presentations. The essence of these learning tools is that these academic activities are developed and monitored by the master trainers and experts in the respective fields.

The concept of CME is not new. It can be traced back to the start of 19th century where physician would attend grand rounds and meetings and discuss difficult cases with their contemporaries, seniors and mentors. Over the years the electronic media has taken over the one to one discussions where presently these meetings, live discussions and the operative workshops can be transmitted across the globe without any logistics.

In developed countries it has been made mandatory for every physician to update their knowledge to keep their practicing license active. Specific academic bodies have been established to monitor these CME activities like the “Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education” in USA. In developed countries most of the time these CME activities are sponsored by the universities and institutions.

In Pakistan unfortunately the scenario never remained transparent. CME activities were mixed with non-CME gatherings and most of the time these were sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. Therefore Government put a moratorium on these pharmaceutical sponsored meetings and conferences abroad. In Pakistan, Government never demanded from the doctors to update their knowledge, rather discouraged attending meetings and conferences abroad.

Recently the regulatory authority to practice medicine in Pakistan (PMDC) has demanded from the doctors to earn CME Credits to renew their registration and license to practice. Though it is still in its infancy and most of the things are yet not clear. PMDC requires 50 CME credits from the specialists and 25 from the family physicians to renew their license for the next 5 years. Detailed guidelines for delivering and earning CME credits can be accessed by visiting PMDC website. Alas! If the Government can develop some system where doctors can update their knowledge & skills like it is being done in some other government departments.

Prof. Dr. Safdar Hassan Javed
Editor,
Annals of PMC
PMC/Allied Hospital, Faisalabad,
E-Mail: annals.pmc@gmail.com