



C O C H A

Chiropractic & Osteopathic College of Australasia
ACN 004 489 909 ABN 58 004 489 909

CONTINUING
EDUCATION
GUIDELINES
2008

for

Chiropractic
and
Osteopathy

Continuing Education Guidelines for Chiropractic and Osteopathy

Effective **1st January 2008**, and for the following two year period ending **31st December 2009**, Department of Veteran affairs (DVA) Providers who nominate COCA as their recognised accrediting agency will be required to fulfill the following:

Minimum Requirements of Continuing Education

- (a) *A minimum of 24 points of accredited continuing education is to be completed in every 2 year period. At least 75% of points should be accrued from Category 1. The 2 year period shall commence on January 1, 2008.*
- (b) *There may be circumstances which may permit waiving of some or all of this continuing education requirement. Such circumstances may include long term illness, absence from practice due to pregnancy or undertaking of formal postgraduate studies.*
- (c) *Individuals who fail to meet the minimum requirements may be at risk of having their DVA contract terminated.*

Continuing Education Points

Category 1: (1 point per hour)

- a) *Ageing and Geriatrics*
- b) *Clinical Biomechanics and Clinical Anatomy*
- c) *Clinical and Diagnostic Science*
- d) *CPR & First Aid*
- e) *Diagnostic Imaging*
- f) *Disability and Impairment Rating*
- g) *Epidemiology*

- h) *Ergonomics*
- i) *Ethics*
- j) *Exercise Physiology*
- k) *Men's health, Women's Health*
- l) *Microbiology, Applied Biochemistry and Physiology*
- m) *Neurology and Orthopedics*
- n) *Neurophysiology*
- o) *Paediatric and Adolescent Health*
- p) *Pain Management*
- q) *Pharmacology*
- r) *Practice Risk Management*
- s) *Psychology*
- t) *Public Health*
- u) *Rehabilitation*
- v) *Statistics, Study Design and Research Methodology*

Category 2: (1/2 point per hour)

- a) *Chiropractic and Osteopathic Principles*
- b) *History of the professions*
- c) *Practice Management*
- d) *Professional Education in other health sciences*
- e) *Public Speaking and Communication*
- f) *Techniques (therapeutic or adjunctive).*

Category 3: (attracts no points)

- a) *Personal and Motivational Training;*
- b) *Political Meetings;*
- c) *Practice Management for the purposes of financial gain.*

Types of Continuing Education Activities

Continuing professional education incorporates a wide variety of formats, e.g. seminars, workshops, courses delivered via the Internet, university courses, etc. In order to be eligible for CE points, activities must satisfy certain minimum Standards which are summarised below:

- the primary purpose of the activity is to improve the quality of patient care
- the content of the activity demonstrates high scientific, clinical and ethical standards
- a learning needs assessment is conducted
- clear learning objectives have been stated
- the learning environment promotes attainment of the learning objectives
- the educational activity is evaluated

a) Seminars and Workshops

Seminars, and workshops are the most common forms of Continuing Professional Education that chiropractors and osteopaths attend to maintain and improve their quality of care.

These activities are provided by organisations such as COCA, CAA, AOA, universities, formal and informal practitioner groups, local hospitals, government departments i.e. Worker's Compensation, Veterans' Affairs, technique organisations, and other allied health organisations. The organisers of these activities will usually apply to COCA for accreditation and CE point allocation.

Points are allocated to reflect the relative educational value of different CE activities.

b) Media or Programmed Self-Study

CE activities which use a variety of media journals, computer applications, audiotapes, videotapes are allocated points according to the total educational content, and not on the basis of duration of the activity.

Points allocated for these types of activities vary according to how they meet the CE Standards. Participation must be evaluated and a certain minimum standard may be required to gain CE points. Typically evaluation involves a quiz on knowledge, case studies or audits. Providers should send a record of participation directly to COCA.

c) Small Group Workshops

Small groups of chiropractors and/or osteopaths may wish to organise their own CE meetings to discuss journal articles, current research, interesting cases, etc. These groups should apply to COCA for allocation of CE points for these activities.

d) Tertiary Courses

Chiropractors and osteopaths who enrol in university courses relevant to practice may apply for CE points. Courses must have a clear relationship to clinical care.

CE points are allocated on a per subject basis. Major subjects (10 credit units) will attract 6 CE points, Minor subjects (5 credit points) will attract 3 CE points. Masters by research and PhD's attract 18 points per year if the research is based in a clinical area, or 10 points per year if it is based in a non-clinical but relevant area. Satisfactory progress reports for Masters by research and PhD's must be provided.

e) Individual Points

If a chiropractor or osteopath attends an overseas or Australian conference, seminar or workshop where the organiser has not applied for points, they may apply as an individual for CE points.

These activities are allocated 1 or 1/2 point per hour according to the above-mentioned Standards. The following must be provided:

- a completed CE application form
- a conference or seminar program
- a certificate of attendance

Note: The cost for individual accreditation will be the responsibility of the applicant and will be based on a "price on application basis".

f) Courses In CPR

Participants in CPR Courses that follow the Australian Resuscitation Council guidelines are eligible for 3 CE points

g) Teaching and Assessment

A range of teaching and assessment activities may attract CE points.

- Teaching chiropractic or osteopathic students, either in their own practice or at university, attracts 1 CE point per half day session
- Lectures to peers will attract 6 CE points per hour-long presentation for preparation and first presentation only
- Examiner for undergraduate exit examinations or Registration Board

examinations attracts 1 point per half day session

- Examiner for other examinations relevant to practice - may apply for individual CE points. Allocation of CE points will depend on the type of examination, relevance to practice, educational value, and the examiner's duties

h) Research Related Activities

- Design and conduct of clinical research projects attracts CE points depending on how they meet the CE Standards. Individuals may apply for CE points by writing to COCA and providing a copy of their research proposal.
- Service (as a writer or reviewer) on technical or research committees of professional or other bodies (e.g. Cochrane Collaboration, formulating Clinical Practice Guidelines). Individuals may apply for points by writing to COCA and providing an outline of their duties.

i) Writing Journal Articles

Articles published in or accepted for publication in) peer-reviewed, high quality journals will attract 6 CE points. Individuals may apply for points by writing to COCA and providing the citations of the relevant articles or a copy of the relevant articles along with proof of acceptance for publication.

j) Practice Audits

COCA is developing a number of clinical audit activities that will attract a maximum of 20 points per completed audit.

For further information, contact:

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