

The ACR's CME Mission Statement

CME Purpose:

The ACR's CME purpose is to provide comprehensive education to improve the knowledge and performance of physicians, scientists and other health professionals. The ACR will offer evidence-based educational activities designed to enhance practice performance and improve the quality of care in those with or at risk for arthritis and rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

Content Areas:

The ACR's CME activities are designed to address the educational needs that underlie the professional practice gaps of its target audience in the areas of research, education and patient care and are guided by, but are not limited to, the topic areas as outlined in the ABIM Rheumatology Certification Examination Blueprint and the ACGME physician competencies.

Target Audience:

The ACR's primary CME audience is its membership. Members include physicians, health professionals, and scientists. The ACR matches the content of our activities to our learners' current or potential scope of practice which includes:

- training (e.g., adult or pediatric rheumatology)
- area of specialization (e.g., patient care, teaching, research, administration)
- work setting (e.g., office practice, hospital, medical school or university)

In addition, the ACR's audience includes other physicians, healthcare professionals, and trainees who treat those with or at risk for arthritis and rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

Types of Activities:

The ACR develops activities and interventions, often in various formats on the same topic, designed to inform our audience and explain the data supporting the proposed approaches to implementation; evaluate our learners' use of knowledge in self-assessment programs and through the utilization of audience response technology; and, enhance our learners' abilities to implement the evidence-based practices in a practice setting.

The variety of formats and the repetition of educational information are designed to enhance retention, reinforce the learning objectives, decrease the professional practice gap, and result in improved quality of care.

The ACR CME activity formats include, but are not limited to:

- Performance improvement modules
- Internet enduring materials
- Webcasts
- Live activities
- Skills training and hands-on workshops
- Case-based presentations with audience response technology
- Debates
- Small group discussion with expert faculty, e.g., Meet the Professor Sessions
- Didactic lectures
- Test-Item writing

Expected Results of the Program:

The ACR's CME activities/educational interventions will result in improved knowledge and/or performance of the learner. The ACR will determine the effectiveness of its CME activities/educational interventions by linking its learners' practice performance directly to a rheumatology-specific quality indicator and by assessing change in its learners during skill training sessions and through data obtained from self-assessment activities and learner evaluations.

Review Procedures of the CME Mission Statement:

The COE reviews the ACR's CME Mission Statement annually or as required and recommends modifications to better align the CME activities with the goals of the College and with patient needs. Following the COE's review and approval of the CME Mission Statement, it is the responsibility of the ACR Board of Directors to review and approve all changes.

- Reviewed by the ACR Committee on Continuing Medical Education: 12/01
- Reviewed and approved by the ACR Board of Directors: 3/02
- Reviewed by ACR Committee on Continuing Medical Education: 12/02
- Reviewed by ACR Committee on Continuing Medical Education: 12/03
- Reviewed and amended by the ACR Committee on Education: 12/04 (Amended due to the approval of dissolution of the Committee on Educational Products and renaming the Committee on Continuing Medical Education.)
- Reviewed and approved by the ACR Board of Directors: 02/05
- Reviewed and amended by the Committee on Education: 01/06 (Amended to include evaluation criteria)

- Reviewed and approved by the ACR Board of Directors: 02/06
- Reviewed and amended by the Committee on Education: 08/07 (Amended to address September 2006 accreditation criteria)
- Reviewed and approved by the ACR Board of Directors: 08/07
- Reviewed and amended by the Committee on Education: 06/09 (Amended activity formats and linking performance practice to rheumatology quality indicators in expected outcomes)
- Reviewed and approved by the ACR Board of Directors: 08/09
- Reviewed by ACR Committee on Education: 1/12