

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO THE AOA ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS FOR  
AOA CATEGORY 1 CME SPONSORS

SUBMITTED BY: Bureau of Osteopathic Education / Council on Continuing Medical Education

REFERRED TO: BOT Reference Committee 1

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- 1 WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) 2016-2018 Continuing Medical  
2 Education (CME) Cycle begins on January 1, 2016; and,
- 3 WHEREAS, the Council on CME (CCME) reviewed revisions to the *AOA Accreditation*  
4 *Requirements for AOA Category 1 CME Sponsors* for 2016-2018 at their November 2015  
5 meeting; and,
- 6 WHEREAS, the CCME recommends key policy changes be adopted before the final version of  
7 the requirements are submitted for approval; now, therefore, be it
- 8 RESOLVED, that a total number of Category 1A credits that may be earned from real time  
9 interactive CME be increased up to 15 credits from the nine (9) credits for real time  
10 interactive CME (policy initially adopted in 2001); and be it further
- 11 RESOLVED, that sponsors in the guide introduction be encouraged to include in programs the  
12 osteopathic tenets and osteopathic recognized elements such as: 1) Communication -  
13 Talking about the holistic approach; 2) Developing - A follow-up plan with  
14 participatory guidance; 3) Facilitating - Techniques etc. to help connect patients on a  
15 road to better quality of activities of daily living; 4) Guiding - Looking at whole picture  
16 to diagnose and treatment; 5) Healing - Spiritual, emotional, musculoskeletal, medical; 6)  
17 Influencing (provide the environment) - Acting as a patient advocate and partner to  
18 better health; 7) Modifying - How to help patient change/alter lifestyle and habits for  
19 better health; and 8) Restructuring - Putting a plan into action; be incorporated into  
20 programs to qualify for Category 1A; and be it further
- 21 RESOLVED, that the accreditation and CME designation statements be changed to improve  
22 the CME experience for DOs and the service provided to them by empowering  
23 accredited sponsors to designate the total amount of CME credit for their programs and  
24 to report specialty credit in compliance with American Osteopathic Association (AOA)  
25 CME and Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists requirements without prior AOA approval;  
26 and be it further
- 27 RESOLVED, that the document survey process for reaccreditation include measures to  
28 evaluate compliance with CME and specialty credit credits requirements in reporting  
29 activities; and be it further
- 30 RESOLVED, that CME sponsors be required to report program activities and participants to  
31 the AOA within 90 days of the CME activity rather than being given until five (5)  
32 months after the close of the CME cycle to do so; and, be it further

1       ~~RESOLVED, that the statement that AOA has agreed not to sponsor any Category 1A~~  
2       ~~programs be deleted in online CME requirements given the significant changes that~~  
3       ~~have occurred in practice since the policy was adopted in 2003; and be it further~~

4       RESOLVED, that upon the adoption of these policy changes by the AOA Board of Trustees in  
5       February 2016, they will be incorporated into the final version of the accreditation  
6       requirements, along with the editorial changes adopted by the CCME in November  
7       2015, immediately preceding the AOA 2016 Midyear meeting.

Explanatory Statement:

The Council on Continuing Medical Education (CCME) updated its accreditation requirements for sponsors at its November 2015 meeting. In reviewing the requirements, changes in policies were made to: 1) incorporate osteopathic principles and practices into the document to make Category 1 programs more osteopathically distinctive; 2) meet the needs of current and future DOs in delivery of CME programming; and, 3) improve the CME experience for DOs and in serving them by empowering CME sponsors to designate and report CME and specialty credits in a timely manner. The CME designation and reporting practice by sponsors is consistent with the American Council of Continuing Medical Education’s practices for accredited providers. With the majority of the edits to the guide being editorial and minor operational clean up, the CCME preferred that these policies be approved by the Board of Trustees and then be incorporated into the final accreditation requirements to be posted online.

ACTION TAKEN **APPROVED as AMENDED**

DATE **February 25, 2016**