

## CPD (CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q1 : What is CPD?

CPD is Continuing Professional Development. It implies that medical professional practice involves a continuing process of learning, upgrading knowledge and skills and personal professional development throughout a practitioner's working and professional life.

### Q2 : What has happened to the MMC-CME Grading System?

The MMC-CME Grading System solely addressed the issue of accruing credit points through various categories of CME activities. The CME Grading System has now been modified to include the previous categories as **Core Activities** and **Non-Core Activities**, in the new CPD Grading System.

### Q3 : What are Core CPD Activities?

Core Activities (Category A1-A11) are essentially all events participated by the medical practitioner, from attendance to presentation of papers at congresses, scientific meetings, workshops, forums, courses and lectures. It also includes publications in journals (indexed, non-indexed), chapters in book, etc. Attendance at ward rounds, self-study, distance learning and on-line self-appraisal, obtaining postgraduate degrees and diplomas and involvement in academic committees.

### Q4 : What are Non-Core Activities?

Non-Core Activities (Category B1 and B2) include membership in Editorial Boards, and other supporting activities related to personal development, self-improvement, leadership, management, IT and even involvement in Arts, music, languages, teamwork, etc. **These add value to the extra-curricular attributes of the practitioner and help to elevate the level of quality of care to the patients.** Obviously this category will need documented evidence and verification.

### Q5 : Who is responsible for the design of the new CPD Grading System?

The new CPD Grading System has been formulated by the **National CPD Committee** of the Ministry of Health in consultation with the Malaysian Medical Association, the Academy of Medicine Malaysia, and the Academy of Family Physicians, and other related government and private professional groups.

### Q6 : Who are in the National CPD Committee?

The National CPD Committee, which is physically located in the Ministry of Health complex in Putrajaya, is chaired by the Director General of Health. Deputy Directors of Kesihatan (Perubatan), Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Kesihatan (Penyelidikan & Sokongan Teknikal), and Pengarah Instituti Penyelidikan Sistem Kesihatan, Pengarah Bahagian Telekesihatan, Pengarah Kesihatan Pergigian, Pengarah Perkhidmatan Farmasi, Bahagian Pembangunan Kompetensi, Bahagian Kejururawatan, all from the Ministry of Health, are members.

The professional bodies represented are the Malaysian Medical Association, Academy of Medicine Malaysia, Malaysian Dental Association, and Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia. The universities are also represented.

The Malaysian Medical Council is represented by the Chairman of the MMC CPD Committee.

### Q7 : What are the aims and objectives of CPD?

CPD is aimed and designed to ensure that, besides a doctor's voluntary efforts to qualitatively and subjectively improve him self/herself in these areas, there is in addition a need to objectively evaluate the impact of such measures taken by the medical practitioner. The ultimate aim is to ensure that a practitioner's professional knowledge, skills and career development will help him to sustain and continue to provide the best and up-to-date professional care to his patients at all times.

### Q8 : Who is affected?

All registered medical practitioners, whether in government, private, university or armed forces services, or any other healthcare facility or service, are required to participate in the CPD Programme.

### Q9 : What is the relationship between CPD and PTK?

PTK stands for Penilaian Tahap Kecekapan (Standards for Performance Evaluation) of the Ministry of Health and is

applicable specifically to medical practitioners employed or working in government healthcare facilities and services. The CPD Grading System will apply to all such practitioners and will be used by Ministry of Health for evaluation of their staff for career and promotion prospects particularly in the Non-Core Part of the CPD Grading System.

**Q10 : What relevance is there of the Non-Core Part in Grading System for practitioners in private healthcare facilities and services?**

The CPD Grading System, as amended from the original MMC-CME Grading System is a **national system**, formulated by the Ministry of Health and the professional bodies. The Non-Core Activities allow acquisition of credit points by medical practitioners in private practice on aspects of non-academic activities. **Taken in the broader context, the qualities, attributes and achievements in the Non-Core segment will add value to the manner in which the practitioners renders professional care to their patients and the community at large.**

**Q11 : How is CPD evaluated?**

CPD is evaluated through acquisition of credit points through various categories of activities in a CPD Grading System, which has been modified from the original MMC-CME Credit point system to include Core and in Non-core Activities. Registered medical practitioners will have to acquire minimum credit points necessary for the award of the MMC-CPD Certificate.

**Q12 : Who will decide on CPD Activities and who will decide whether an activity is Core or Non-core?**

The Malaysian Medical Association (for General/Family Practitioners) and Academy of Medicine (for Specialists) will administer the CPD Grading System for their respective groups. They will also decide on accrediting Providers and the award of credit points, and whether a particular CPD activity is core or non-core, based on the Grading System.

**Q13 : Is participation in CPD activities compulsory?**

The participation of all registered medical practitioners in the current MMC-CME Grading System is at present voluntary but strongly encouraged. The revised CPD Grading System is, as stated, based on the MMC-CME Grading System. Core Activities are already available nation-wide as well as through self-study programmes, so medical practitioners will have no difficulty accessing programmes to score credit points in the various categories in the CPD Grading System.

The Biannual CPD Certificate will continue to be issued by the President of the Malaysian Medical Council, as at present existing for the CME Grading System.

**Q14 : Will CPD become compulsory for Annual Practising Certificate?**

It is true that in spite of the MMC-CME Grading System having been in operation for more than 10 years, as administered by the MMA, the participation by registered medical practitioners has been poor. It therefore becomes necessary, to achieve the objectives of the Ministry of Health Malaysia and the Malaysian Medical Council, to make CPD compulsory. Within the next few years, and after successful completion of the pilot projects, the acquisition of minimum credit points in the CPD Grading System will be made compulsory for the issuance of the Annual Practising Certificate.

**Q15 : Will there be improvements in the way the CPD Grading System will be conducted?**

Yes. There are already electronic systems set up at great cost in the Ministry of Health in Putrajaya to make CPD Programmes on-line. Medical practitioners will be able to access information on CPD through on-line electronic links by logging onto **mycpd**. By this system, practitioners will be able to send in their CPD Grading System credit points directly to the Secretariat in Ministry of Health and also view their progress.

**Q16 : What is the role of MMC in this system?**

MMC will directly monitor the CPD Grading System for all practitioners registered under the Medical Act 1971, whether in public, private or other practices. The issuance of the MMC-CPD Certificate by the President of the Council to medical practitioners accruing credit points biannually will be administered by the MMC.

**Q17 : Will MMC operate a CPD Secretariat?**

Yes. The Malaysian Medical Council is in the process of establishing a CPD Secretariat in its complex at Jalan Cenderasari, Kuala Lumpur. The credit point collection and other administrative functions will be operated from this MMC CPD Secretariat, with the assistance of the Malaysian Medical Association and the Academy of Medicine Malaysia. The MMC CPD Secretariat will be linked directly with the CPD Electronic System in MOH Putrajaya.

**Q18 : Does this mean that all registered medical practitioners must possess computers and know how to use them?**

Yes. Computer literacy is an invaluable asset in modern day medical practice and the benefits are immense. It is hoped that eventually each and every practicing doctor will have computers in his/her practice, or have easy accessibility to computers in his/her place of practice/facility and even if he/she is not fully competent, the doctor will have staff who can assist in this respect. However, until such time practitioners are able to access the CPD Secretariat personally, the present method of submitting paper documents and submission by accredited Providers will continue.

**Q19 : Which groups of doctors will be affected by Compulsory CPD?**

All fully registered practitioners, whether Malaysian or foreign doctors on contract, will have to comply with the CPD requirements to be able to renew their Annual Practising Certificates when it is made compulsory. Foreign doctors with Temporary Practising Certificate on short approved visits to healthcare facilities in the country or undergoing postgraduate courses or in-service training fellowships are exempt from compulsory CPD.

**Q20 : Why is the Academy of Medicine to administer CPD for Specialists?**

The reason is two-fold. Firstly, it is to reduce the load off MMA. Secondly, the Academy of Medicine is at present administering the National Specialist Register on behalf of the MMC, in which both the CPD Core Activities, as well as competency in their respective Specialty (Non-Core Activities) may eventually be included.

The CPD points accrued by the practitioners in the private sector will be for the MMC Annual/Biennial CME Certificate. The CPD points accrued by the practitioners in the public sector will be for the MMC CPD Certificate plus the CPD-PTK Evaluation of the MOH.

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