



Guidelines for CPD accreditation of the South African Society of Medical Oncology

To the Editor: There do not appear to be guidelines in use for accreditation of continuing professional development (CPD) activities in South Africa, or indeed in many other parts of the world. The South African Society of Medical Oncology (SASMO) has adopted the guidelines below, based in part on the guidelines of the Canadian Medical Association for the interaction between industry and doctors.

Guidelines

1. The primary purpose of CPD activities is to address the educational needs of medical doctors and other health care providers in order to improve and maintain the health care of patients.
2. Activities that are primarily promotional in nature should be identified as such and should not be considered as CPD.
3. One or more medical organisers, who are independent and of academic standing, will be appointed. They will be responsible for ensuring the scientific validity, objectivity and completeness of CPD activities.
4. Lecturers should use generic names rather than trade names in the course of CPD activities. If specific products are mentioned, there should be a balanced presentation of the prevailing body of scientific information on the product and of reasonable, alternative treatment options. If unapproved uses of a product or service are discussed, presenters must inform the audience of this fact.
5. Lecturers at CPD events must disclose to the participants any financial affiliations with manufacturers of products or service providers mentioned at the event, or with manufacturers of competing products or providers of competing services.
6. CPD publicity and written materials should acknowledge

financial or other aid received. This material will not be promotional in nature.

7. It is preferable that promotional displays not be in the same room as the educational activity.

8. Medical attendees should always maintain professional autonomy, independence and commitment to the scientific method.

9. Attendees may accept patient or professional teaching aids appropriate to their area of practice provided these aids carry only the logo of the donor company.

10. Doctors in the state/academic sector should have the same opportunity to attend CPD meetings as those in the private sector.

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