



9312 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
P 301.581.9200 | F 301.571.4903
www.cpme.org

Date: March 18, 2020

Authors: Rodney Peele, JD; Continuing Education Committee Chair
Kieran Mahan, DPM; Council on Podiatric Medical Education Chair
Heather Stagliano, DHSc, Director CPME; Sandra Saylor, Associate Director CPME

Subject: CPME Guidance on COVID-19 for Continuing Education

Note: This document will be updated as new information becomes available.

CPME continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak and guidance/updates issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and other sources. Most importantly, CPME wants to ensure that the health and safety of our learners, faculty, staff, and patients is at the forefront of any decision made. CPME understands that each provider of continuing education will be facing unique challenges. If a local outbreak occurs, local public health decisions must be followed (such as restricting the size of groups to 10 people or fewer or social distancing of 6 feet or more) and providers will be obligated to follow the directives of the local authorities. CPME encourages you to think about how you might modify continuing education activities in your program(s) within the context of the current situation and to also consider potential issues that may arise as the virus spreads.

As alternatives to continuing education delivery are considered, it is important to be mindful of potential consequences for podiatric physicians, the public, and the state boards for examination and licensure.

Continuing Education: Many providers of continuing education have decided voluntarily, or in some cases involuntarily, to cancel or postpone in person continuing education activities. As a result of these changes, providers may want to offer these activities via the internet as “internet live activities,” but many of you are questioning how to go about this. As a reminder, CPME approves providers of continuing education, rather than the specific continuing education activities that you may provide. Therefore, you may provide continuing education activities in different formats that still meet the requirements of CPME.

We will be notifying all state boards of podiatric medicine that providers are altering in person continuing education activities to internet live activities due to the national state of emergency, and we hope that they will allow extra time for podiatric physicians to obtain continuing education contact hours. However, we advise providers to contact the state boards where your learners/attendees are licensed for verification. Ultimately, it is up to state licensing boards to determine continuing education requirements and what contact hours are acceptable.

CPME 720, Standards and Requirements for Approval of Providers of Continuing Education in



9312 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
P 301.581.9200 | F 301.571.4903
www.cpme.org

Podiatric Medicine, defines an “internet live activity” as an online continuing education activity available at a certain time, on a certain date, and available online in real-time, just as if it were an in person continuing education activity held in an auditorium. Once the event has taken place, learners may no longer participate in such an activity. Some examples of an “internet live activity” are webinar, video conference, and teleconference. Providers will need to have a method to document the learners’ attendance for these activities/courses before issuing certificates of attendance. Providers may record and post such activities online, but without real time interaction with the instructor(s), providers should not award CE contact hours to subsequent viewers (but see instructional media, below). No post assessment is required for internet live activities.

If you are planning an instructional media activity where there is not immediate real-time interaction with the instructor and/or learners can determine when they participate, then providers should continue to follow CPME’s Standards and Requirements regarding instructional media For example, under Standard 9, CPME requires a validated a post-assessment to be administered.