

Tips for Completing the Colorado Medical Society CME Application for a Speedy Approval

Gaps and Educational Needs

The most important questions on the CME application are concerning: identifying the gap in practice, understanding the educational need that underlies the gap, and articulating the desired result (outcome) of the activity. These planning criteria are fundamentally essential for good CME planning.

- ✚ A “gap” is the difference between best practice and current practice. Both should be articulated in the gap description. CME should be designed to “close” the gap.
- ✚ Work with your planning committee, content experts, and or faculty when completing this section of the CME application. Specific data or information is needed.
- ✚ Quick literature searches can help with articulation and some important facts or data.
- ✚ Provide references to literature or data that is used to support your gap description.
- ✚ Be brief and to the point when describing gaps and needs, but be sure to include enough information to describe them sufficiently.
- ✚ Remember the gaps in practice must apply to YOUR learners.

Here are two good examples of describing the gap, educational need and desired result:

*Example #1

Gap: In 2006, ACIP, CDC, and ACOG recommended that females, ages 9-26, receive an HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer. (*Best practice*) Yet, HPV vaccination rates are low. Only 10% of women 18-26 have received at least one dose of HPV vaccine (MMWR, 2008). (*Current practice*)

Educational Need: Physicians caring for girls and young women need to know the high benefit and small risks of HPV vaccination, and how to implement effective strategies for counseling and vaccination.

Desired result: To improve HPV vaccination rates among appropriate candidates.

Example #2

Gap: Health care payers both public and private are moving toward a pay-for-value system. (*best practice*) Fee for service continues to be the most widely used payment model. Research shows that the fee for service payment model encourages variations in care, lack of care coordination, increased costs, lack of accountability and is unsustainable. (*current practice*)

Educational Need: Planning and developing strategies around practice systems and the utilization of performance measures must occur if physicians want to participate in incentivized payment models.

Desired Result: To align payment with quality care by utilizing performance measures or other value-based payment models to increase quality, reduce health care costs and improve patient outcomes.

Unacceptable Gap descriptions:

“Physicians need to be updated with the latest medical knowledge and technologies in the field of anesthesiology.” Or, “Many of our physicians requested this topic.”