

<p><b>SUBJECT: CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR PHYSICIANS APPROVED AS EXCEPTIONS TO BOARD CERTIFICATION</b></p> <p><b>SECTION: CREDENTIALING</b></p> <p><b>POLICY NUMBER: CR-22A</b></p>	<p><b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/15</b></p>
<p><i>Applies to all products administered by the Plan except when changed by contract</i></p>	

**Policy Statement:** It is the Plan’s policy that all physicians continue those educational activities essential to maintain competence in their specialty as a requirement for continued membership on Plan’s participating provider panel. All physicians are required to be board certified in their specialty and must maintain their certification in their practice specialty.

**Definitions:** Current Category 1 and Category 2 Continuing Medical Education (CME) definitions can be located at the AMA website. See attached appendix for additional description and requirements.

**Process:**

1. All physicians who have been approved as exceptions to board certification pursuant to Credentialing Policy CR-22 are required to complete 50 hours of annualized Category One CME, all of which must be in their credentialed practice specialty.
2. The Plan will ask for evidence through audit or attestation of successful completion of the required Category One CME as part of the application for re-credentialing. The Medical Director will review situations not meeting requirements and require the physician to develop an action plan for completion acceptable to the Medical Director. Action plans must describe how the deficit will be made up. Situations requiring further attention may be brought to the Credentialing Committee.

**Cross Reference:**

**CR-22 - Competency Requirements for Credentialing/Recredentialing of Physicians and Osteopathic Physicians**

**Committee Approvals:**

Corporate Credentials Committee: New. CME policy developed when rewrite of board recert policy was Completed 8/15/2015; renew 8/16/2017; renew 8/21/2019; renewed 8/19/2021; Renamed to CR22A following retirement of the Board Recertification policy 11/17/2021; revised 8/16/2023; revised 8/20/2025

# Appendix for CME

## AMA and AOA Category 1 and Category 2 Continuing Medical Education Definitions

**I. Source:** American Medical Association Physician Recognition Program - Updated February 2007

### **Direct *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* activities**

#### **A. Publishing articles**

**Credit assignment:** ten (10) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits per article.

#### **B. Poster presentation**

**Credit assignment:** five (5) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits per poster.

#### **C. Medically related advanced degrees**

**Credit assignment:** twenty-five (25) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

#### **D. ABMS member board certification and Maintenance of Certification (MoC®)**

**Credit assignment:** twenty-five (25) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits; after 9/1/2010 sixty (60) AMA PRA Category 1 credits;

#### **E. Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education accredited education**

**Credit assignment:** twenty (20) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits per year (up to three years);

#### **F. Independent learning**

Based on the work and results captured by this report, the AMA will calculate and award AMA PRA Category 1 Credit.

### **G. International Conference Recognition program**

#### ***AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™* activities**

Teaching residents, medical students or other health professionals; unstructured online searching and learning (i.e., not Internet PoC); reading authoritative medical literature; or participating in live activities not designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit, consultation with peers and medical experts, small group discussions, self assessment activities, medical writing, preceptorships, research **Credit assignment:** as with live activities, physicians may self claim one (1) AMA PRA Category 2 Credit for each 60-minute hour engaged in the learning activity.

### **Provider designated *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™***

#### **A. Live activities**

**Assigning credit for learner participation in live activities:** Sixty minutes of physician participation (i.e., formal interaction between faculty and the physician audience) in a certified live activity equals one (1) AMA PRA Category 1 Credit.

**Assigning credit for teaching at Category 1 live activities** Faculty may be awarded two (2) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits for each hour they present at a live activity designated for such credit.

#### **B. Enduring materials**

**Assigning credit for enduring materials:** Sixty minutes equals one (1) AMA PRA Category 1 Credit.

#### **C. Journal-based CME**

**Assigning credit for journal-based CME:** Providers may designate individual articles for one (1) AMA PRA Category 1 Credit.

#### **D. New procedures**

**Verification of attendance:** the physician attended and completed the course; **Verification of satisfactory completion of course objectives:** the physician satisfied all specified learning objectives; **Verification of proctor readiness:** the physician can successfully perform the procedure under proctor supervision. A physician proctor can competently oversee another physician performing a given procedure; **Verification of physician competence:** the physician can successfully perform the procedure without further supervision.

#### **E. Test item writing**

**Assigning credit for test item writing:** Providers may designate each test item writing activity (the cycle described above) for a maximum of ten (10) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

#### **F. Manuscript review (for journals)**

**Assigning credit for manuscript review:** Providers may designate each accepted manuscript review, as documented by the journal editor, for a maximum of three (3) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

#### **G. Performance improvement**

**Assigning credit for PI activities:** Physicians may be awarded incremental AMA PRA Category 1 Credit for completing each successive stage of a PI activity. Five (5) AMA PRA Category 1 Credits can be awarded for the completion of each of the three stages (A, B and C).

#### **H. Internet point of care learning**

**Assigning credit for Internet PoC learning:** Physicians conducting structured online searches on clinical topics may claim a half (0.5) AMA PRA Category 1 Credit for documented completion (either at the point of care or later) of the three step learning cycle.

#### **I. Other activities**

Providers may designate other appropriately structured activities for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit. For example, committee work, learning plans/contracts, etc. that are developed in accordance with all the requirements for designated live activities can be eligible for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit.

## **II. Source:** American Osteopathic Association CME Guide - Updated February 2007

The AOA assigns Category One and Category Two CME credit in two groups: 1-A, 1-B, and 2-A, 2-B.

### **Category 1-A Credit**

AOA Category 1-A credits will be granted to attendees for formal educational programs designed to enhance clinical competence and improve patient care. These programs must be sponsored by an AOA-accredited Category 1 CME sponsor and are limited to:

- 1. Formal Osteopathic CME**

Formal Osteopathic CME consists of formal face-to-face programs that meet the Category 1 quality guidelines and faculty requirements and are sponsored by AOA-accredited Category 1 CME sponsors.

- 2. Osteopathic Medical Teaching**

Physicians who deliver formal osteopathic medical education in a didactic format are eligible to receive Category 1-A credit on an hour-for-hour basis. Methods of such education are limited to:

- Formal delivery of osteopathic medical education lectures in colleges of osteopathic medicine,
- Formal delivery of osteopathic medical education to students, interns, residents, and staff of AOA-approved healthcare facilities. Teaching credit must be submitted by the CME Department of an AOA-accredited Category 1 CME college of osteopathic medicine or Category 1 CME hospital.

3. **CME Credit for Standardized Life Support Courses**

The following standardized life support courses are eligible for Category 1-A credit. Hours of credit for each course are awarded as indicated in the following table:

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Provider Course</b>	<b>Refresher Course</b>	<b>Instructor Course</b>
Advanced trauma life support	19	8	16
Advanced cardiac life support	16	8	16
Basic cardiac life support (health care provider)	8	4	24
Pediatric advanced life support (AHA)	16	8	16
Advanced pediatric life support (AAP)	16	8	16
Neonatal advanced life support	8	4	16
Advanced life support in obstetrics	16	16	8

4. All osteopathic physicians who successfully complete an eligible standardized life support course will be awarded for the actual number of hours taken not to exceed the total number of hours listed above in the chart

5. **Standardized Federal Aviation Courses**

The Federal Aviation Administration “Aviation Medicine” course and the United States Army “Flight Surgeon Primary Course,” are eligible for Category 1-A credit.

6. **Bioterrorism Courses**

- A. AOA osteopathic sponsored “bioterrorism” courses are eligible for Category 1-A credit.
- B. A maximum of four hours of AOA Category 1-A (in any 3 year CME cycle) may be awarded for any bioterrorism courses that are ACCME or AAFP approved. Additional hours may be awarded in the appropriate category.

7. **Federal Programs**

- A. AOA Category 1-A credit may be awarded to formal CME programs for participants who are on active duty or employed by a uniformed service.
- B. Category 1-B will be awarded to all other CME activities.

8. **Grand Rounds**

Grand rounds will be considered for AOA Category 1-A credit when submitted as a “series of at least three (3) programs,” as opposed to being submitted on a lecture-by-lecture basis. The Category 1 CME Sponsor must meet the Accreditation Requirement to award AOA Category 1-A credit.

## Category 1-B Credit

Category 1-B credit may be awarded for the following:

- 1. Publications, Inspections, Examinations, and Committee Meetings**

Development and publication of scientific papers and electronically communicated osteopathic educational programs; serving as an osteopathic healthcare facility, college accreditation, internship, residency or OPTI survey or consultant; conducting and developing certifying board examinations; participating on an osteopathic state licensing professional review board; and for healthcare committee and departmental meetings which review and evaluate patient care whether the committee work is in an osteopathic or allopathic institution.
- 2. Osteopathic Preceptoring**

Osteopathic physicians serving as preceptors in any AOA approved osteopathic medical education program may be granted Category 1-B credit. A maximum of 60 hours of AOA Category 1-B for preceptoring may be applied to the 120-hour requirement.
- 3. Certification Credit**

Fifteen hours of Category 1-B credit will be awarded to AOA members who pass an AOA recertification examination or obtain a certification of added qualifications.
- 4. Activities in Non-AOA Accredited Institutions**

Category 1-B may be granted to osteopathic physicians who participate in a non-AOA accredited institution/hospital-activities such as: hospital staff activities, educational lectures, and lecturing when the institution/hospital is an AOA recognized associate institution/hospital that trains osteopathic students, interns and/or residents. A non-AOA accredited institution/hospital or associate institution/hospital is an institution/hospital that is directly associated with an OPTI for purposes of training osteopathic students, interns and/or residents. Accreditation of the hospital/institution by the Healthcare Facility Accreditation Program HFAP of the AOA is not required.
- 5. Non-Osteopathic CME Programs**

The Council on Continuing Medical Education may recognize allopathic specialty or subspecialty programs for Category 1-B credit, when in the Council's opinion there is essentially no equivalent course content available within the osteopathic profession, and that such recognition will apply to all physicians in that specialty or subspecialty. These courses must be provided by an ACCME accredited provider, or be AAFP approved.
- 6. Journal Reading**

Osteopathic physicians can earn two hours of AOA Category 1-B credit for reading the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA)* and other journals approved by the CCME and passing the respective CME quiz with a minimum grade of 70%.
- 7. Faculty Development Programs**

Faculty development programs may be granted Category 1-A credit up to a maximum of 10 hours per CME cycle and Category 1-B credit for any excess hours if sponsored by an AOA-accredited Category 1 CME sponsor and meet the 1-A faculty/hours requirement.
- 8. Test Construction Committee Work**

Test construction committee work may be awarded Category 1-B credit when performed as part of a Seminar, or meeting of an AOA official certifying board, or an AOA practice affiliates postgraduate in-service examination committee, or at a meeting of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners with at least three attendees.

- A. One Category 1-B credit may be awarded for each test item written, with a maximum of 20 credits per cycle, when submitted to an AOA official certifying board and/or The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.
- B. Two hours of Category 1-B credit may be awarded, with a maximum of 20 hours per cycle, for clinical cases developed and submitted to NBOME for COMLEX-PE.
- C. Ten hours of Category 1-B credit may be awarded for administering the oral and practical examinations.

Credits will not be awarded for meetings that are primarily administrative in nature.

### **Category 2-A Credit**

Category 2-A includes formal educational programs that are ACCME-accredited, AAFP-approved, or sponsored by AOA-accredited Category 1 CME sponsors that do not meet the 1-A faculty/hours requirement for Category 1-A credit.

### **Category 2-B Credit**

Category 2-B credit includes the preparation and presentation of scientific exhibits at a county, regional, state, or national professional meeting (10 hours per scientific exhibit); home study; reading medical journals; viewing non-osteopathic medical video and audio tapes and cassettes; journal type CME on the Internet; faculty development; physician administrative training; quality assessment programs; observations at medical centers; courses in medical economics; CME programs on the Internet; risk management programs that are administrative in nature; programs dealing with experimental and investigative areas of medical practice, and ABMS recertification examination or a certificate of added certification (15 hours). Five credit hours may be granted for reading medical textbooks.