

February 2011

ANNOUNCEMENT

Revisions to ADA CERP Recognition Standards Related to Scientific Basis of CE Content

ADA CERP Eligibility Criteria require that continuing education providers offer courses with “a sound scientific basis in order to adequately protect the public” (ADA CERP Eligibility Criterion 2). At its November 2010 meeting, the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure approved revisions to the [ADA CERP Recognition Standards and Procedures](#) designed to strengthen this essential aspect of continuing dental education.

In finalizing these revisions, the Council considered comments from the communities of interest, including the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs, and reviewed policies related to content validation established by other accrediting agencies for continuing health care education. Specific revisions to the Standards related to validation of clinical or technical content are identified in the attached chart.

Written policies on clinical and technical CE courses—Standard IX.8

Standard IX.8 previously stated that providers were responsible for ensuring that clinical and technical CE activities had a sound scientific basis and proven clinical efficacy. The revised criterion now requires that providers develop and implement specific *written* policies or guidelines describing the provider’s commitment to ensuring that clinical and technical CE courses are grounded in a sound scientific basis, and outlining the provider’s methods for doing so.

Written policies, procedures or guidelines must ensure that the scientific basis for clinical and technical CE content is presented in each course, as well as an assessment of the benefits and risks associated with any clinical recommendations or treatment options presented.

ADA CERP recognizes that continuing education may offer a forum for presenting new research and stimulating scientific exchange, and that there are instances where scientific evidence for new or accepted dental procedures is emerging or uncertain. In these circumstances, providers must ensure that the level of scientific evidence that is available is presented, in addition to the known benefits and risks associated with the course subject matter.

To demonstrate compliance with Standard IX.8, providers will be asked to submit evidence that they have written policies and/or procedures outlining requirements for clinical and technical CE courses. Providers may also be asked to submit examples of course materials documenting that scientific evidence and known risks and benefits were presented. Examples of documents that providers might submit to demonstrate compliance with Standard IX.8 could include organizational policies, procedure manuals, standard operating protocols for staff and volunteers, instructions or guidelines for speakers/authors, etc. In this context, providers should also review ADA CERP Standard VII.3, which states that providers must ensure that instructors “support clinical recommendations with references from the scientific literature whenever possible.”

Courses offered on a repeated basis—Standard IX.9

This new criterion applies to CE providers that offer courses on a repeated basis. To ensure that these courses continue to meet ADA CERP requirements, providers must now have a mechanism in place to periodically review them. In particular, for courses presenting clinical or technical content, the provider must periodically conduct a review of the course content to ensure that it presents current scientific information and updated assessments of the benefits and risks associated with the subject matter.

To demonstrate compliance with Standard IX.9, providers that offer the same course or courses on a repeated basis will be asked to describe their practices for periodically reviewing the content of these courses. Providers may also be asked to submit policies and procedures for periodic review, documentation from a periodic review, or other evidence that a review was conducted.

Time line for implementation

ADA CERP approved providers should review the revised [Standards](#) and assess internal policies and procedures to identify whether any changes may be needed.

To allow providers time to make any necessary adjustments to programs, policies or procedures, ADA CERP will begin evaluating compliance beginning in January 2012. The first cohort of providers to be evaluated on compliance with the revised Standards related to scientific content will be those with recognition terms expiring December 2012.

For more information about ADA CERP policies and procedures contact ADA CERP staff at 800-621-8099 ext. 2869 or visit www.ada.org/goto/cerp.

Revisions to ADA CERP Recognition Standards Related to Scientific Basis of CE Content

November 2010

Additions underlined; deletions shown in ~~strike~~through.

Standard/ Criterion No.	Standard	Explanation of Revisions
Eligibility		
Criterion 2	A CDE provider must ensure that all courses offered <u>for continuing education credit</u> have a sound scientific basis in order to adequately protect the public. ADA CERP reserves the right to require that the applicant provide documentation that courses offered by the provider have a sound scientific basis, and proven efficacy <u>in order to ensure</u> and promote public safety.	<i>Emphasize that in order to be eligible to apply for CERP recognition, providers must ensure that all courses offered for continuing dental education credit have a sound scientific basis.</i>
Standard IX. Administration		
IX.8	The CDE provider must <u>develop and operate in accordance with written policies, procedures or guidelines designed to ensure</u> be responsible for ensuring that all clinical and/or technical CDE activities offered <u>include the</u> have a sound scientific basis for the program content and an assessment of the benefits and risks associated with that content in order to <u>promote</u> proven efficacy and ensure public safety. <u>Where the scientific basis for a clinical and/or technical CDE activity is evolving or uncertain, the presentation will describe the level of scientific evidence that is currently available and what is known of the risks and benefits associated with the clinical and/or technical CDE activity.</u>	<i>Providers are currently required to ensure that CE courses have a sound scientific basis. The revised criterion now requires providers to have <u>written</u> policies to this effect and to be able demonstrate that the policies are implemented. The revised criterion eliminates the requirement that CE activities must only discuss topics or techniques with “proven efficacy,” as this may be overly restrictive. Guidance is added for CE presenting information on emerging technologies or accepted dental procedures for which evidence is evolving. In these cases, providers must ensure that all known risks and benefits are presented as well as the available evidence. Participants must be informed if scientific evidence is limited.</i>
Standard IX. Administration		
IX.9	For CDE activities that are repeated, the <u>provider must be able to demonstrate that it has a process in place to ensure that the activities continue to meet all ADA CERP Standards and criteria, including requirements to include the scientific basis for the program content and an assessment of the benefits and risks associated with that content in order to promote public safety.</u>	<i>New criterion requires providers that offer the same course on a repeated basis to show that the course is periodically reviewed and evaluated, and updated when necessary, to ensure that the course content remains valid.</i>
Lexicon of Terms		
<u>EVIDENCE-BASED DENTISTRY*</u>	<u>Evidence-based dentistry (EBD) is an approach to oral health care that requires the judicious integration of systematic assessments of clinically relevant scientific evidence, relating to the patient's oral and medical condition and history, with the dentist's clinical expertise and the patient's treatment needs and preferences. (See Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry at http://ebd.ada.org)</u> <u>* As adopted by the ADA House of Delegates (2001:462)</u>	<i>The ADA's existing definition of EBD was added to the CERP Lexicon in order to clarify the term which is used in the Standards. The link to the ADA's Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry is included as a resource for providers wishing to research the scientific literature on specific topics in dentistry.</i>