



RECOGNITION NEWS ALERT FROM ACCME SEPTEMBER 2007

EVOLUTION OF THE ACCREDITATION SYSTEM: ACCREDITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEWLY RELEASED ACCME POLICIES

The ACCME has announced new policies and interpretations related to 1) the ACCME Standards for Commercial SupportSM, 2) activities in which the learner participates electronically, 3) elements of journal-based CME, and 4) the link between accreditation and credit. The new policies are effective **January 1, 2008**, unless otherwise indicated.

To assist Recognized Accreditors in understanding and implementing these policies, the ACCME will be discussing the new policies at the 2007 ACCME State/Territory Medical Society Conference on October 1-2, 2007 in Atlanta, GA.

The ACCME has already provided explanations, examples, and "Q&A" on the new policies to assist CME providers. [Please click here to view the document detailing these policy updates.](#) The information on the ACCME website [policy pages](#) has also been updated to reflect these changes.

Although each Recognized SMS Accreditor may have its own process for the integration of these

new accreditation requirements into its governing documents and processes, the ACCME does expect all Recognized SMS Accreditors to adopt all these policies related to the planning, presentation, and delivery of CME set by the ACCME. Accreditors must then integrate them into the accreditation process. This may involve, but is not limited to, the following steps:

- Official adoption of new policies;
- Updating appropriate materials (i.e. Accreditation Manuals, accreditation materials, website, surveyor forms);
- Communication of updated policies to volunteers and providers; and/or
- Education of volunteers and providers regarding updated policies.

Also at the 2007 ACCME State/Territory Medical Society Conference on October 1-2, 2007, the ACCME will be discussing how it will be integrating the new policies into ACCME's accreditation process.

ACCME HAS BEGUN THE PROCESS TO REGISTER THE ACCME STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL SUPPORTSM

The ACCME and state medical society accreditation processes certify that providers have met the accreditation requirements. One of the **services** provided by these accreditation processes is the certification that providers have met the ACCME Standards for Commercial SupportSM - as expressed through compliance with Essential Area 2: Criteria 7 thru 10.

In order to formalize and clarify this function the ACCME has recently applied for the registration of the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support as a **service mark** (SM) with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Traditionally, Recognized SMS Accreditors have adopted the ACCME requirements and documents in a variety of ways, including simply adding their own name or logo to the front of the

ACCME document. These varying ways are all acceptable for other requirements, but not for the ACCME Standards for Commercial SupportSM. Going forward the registered name as reflected here must be retained. In addition, the document must be used in its entirety. The Recognized SMS may not edit or delete sections of the document. This is important in ensuring that CME providers accredited by Recognized SMS Accreditors continue to share the same rights and privileges of all accredited providers.

By registering the Standards as a service mark, the ACCME hopes to ensure that all accreditors using the Standards are in fact ensuring the principles contained within them. If you have any questions about the formatting or use of ACCME documents, please do not hesitate to contact ACCME staff.

We look forward to seeing representatives from all ACCME Recognized State and Territory Medical Societies at the annual ACCME SMS Conference, October 1-2, 2007, Atlanta, GA. To register, please visit www.accme.org. Use registration code: SMS Conf 2007