

Frequently Asked Questions about the MPC Program

What is MPC Program?

The program that has been established with the aim of promoting continuing medical education and continuing professional development, and the maintenance of professional competence and professional standards of healthcare practitioners in Kuwait is called the MPC Program. MPC stands for maintenance of professional competence, and reflects the overall goal of continuing education.

Why CME/CPD?

The basic purpose of CME/CPD is to improve the performance of the health professional in his or her practice, and thus enhance the care that patients and the community receive.

How do I get detailed information about the MPC Program?

Updates on the MPC Program appear at <www.kims.org.kw/cme>, the web site maintained by the CME Center. This web site also gives access to the forms needed for practitioners to register themselves in the MPC Program and for CME/CPD organizers to register the CME/CPD activities they plan to conduct.

What is the procedure for participating in CME/CPD activities?

Organizers of accredited CME/CPD activities inform the selected target group about the CME/CPD events. The CME Center, too, furnishes basic information about the activities at <www.kims.org.kw/cme>, the CME Center web site and through the *Bulletin of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization*.

The prospective participant should select the activity depending on whether the subject matter to be dealt with would help in improving own practice. He or she should then apply direct to the CME/CPD organizer for enrolment in the CME/CPD event.

How do I calculate participation in CME/CPD activities?

All accredited CME/CPD activities have a credit point value assigned to them. Health professionals who complete participation in accredited CME/CPD activities receive a certificate issued by the organizer of the activity. The organizer is expected to indicate the CME/CPD credits that the participant is entitled to claim in the certificate issued, and the participants should ensure that this information is clearly stated in the certificate at the time they receive it.

Do I get certificates of participation from KIMS?

Certificates of participation have to be obtained from the respective organizers and not from the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS), unless KIMS or a division at KIMS functioned as the CME/CPD organizer of a specific activity.

I attended a CME activity abroad. How can I include its CME points under the MPC Program?

First and foremost, the activity has to be one that is conducted by or under the oversight of an approved CME/CPD authority. Moreover, it has to be designated as a CME activity by the concerned institution.

It is essential that the credit value (and category, where relevant) is clearly mentioned in the attendance certificates issued by the respective organizers. Practitioners who intend to attend any activities abroad are advised to contact the organizers well in advance to verify the CME/CPD status of the activity.

If practitioners submit certificates of attendance that do not have the required information, the CME Center will consult the CME/CPD Officer appointed for the specialty for assessing the activity and for deciding whether CME credit, if any, could be assigned.

Can I use a printed Application Form to register in the MPC Program or submit credits?

The policy of KIMS and its CME Center is to encourage practitioners to use online facilities wherever applicable. Therefore, applying online to register in the MPC Program is the preferred option. Credits can be submitted only via the Online Form, which is activated at the beginning of every calendar year.

Who is authorized to conduct CME/CPD activities?

An institution that has been accredited as a CME/CPD Provider has to take overall responsibility for any activities that are to be Registered under the MPC Program.

The approved CME/CPD Providers are Faculties and Scientific Committees of KIMS; Health Sciences Faculties of Kuwait University; Departments, Divisions and Units of Ministry of Health that function at the national level; and health professions associations and specialty societies affiliated to them.

What is the basis for categorizing CME/CPD activities?

Accredited CME/CPD Providers are eligible to conduct Category 1 CME/CPD activities. Ongoing (weekly, monthly etc.) activities conducted at healthcare or scientific institutions, and CME/CPD activities conducted with a local participant group as the target audience as well as self-learning that practitioners undertake are classified under Category 2.

What is the accepted maximum duration of a presentation?

Excessively long presentations, esp. when the presentation is a lecture, are usually not likely to be very useful to the participants. A 10 to 15 minute period for questions at the end of a 40 to 45 minute lecture will allow for some degree of interaction by the participants and will break the monotony of long presentation sessions.

How do I register a CME/CPD activity?

For the CME Center to start on the registration process, the CME/CPD organizer has to first submit a completed application. A letter asking for registration is not sufficient, and is also not needed.

The Application Form is available at <www.kims.org.kw/cme>, the website of the CME Center. Once the relevant sections are filled in, the application can be sent online.

How do I calculate CME/CPD credit points when applying for registration of an activity?

The organizer does not have to state the CME/CPD credits for the activity in the application for registration. The CME Center will calculate the CME/CPD credits based on the guidelines that have been announced.

What is the procedure for registering live operative procedures relayed to an audience or clinical sessions as CME/CPD?

Operative procedures relayed live to a group of practitioners do not qualify to be registered as CME/CPD. However, segments that are planned and presented as practical components of a learning activity could be considered for registration. In such situations, the organizer needs to provide information on the learning objectives, content area and how the observers would be guided during the demonstration so that the event becomes a learning experience.

Clinical services provided by a visiting expert, too, are not considered as CME/CPD. Selected components that are specifically planned and conducted for learning purposes may be registered.

How can pharmaceutical firms organize a CME/CPD activity under the MPC Program?

A pharmaceutical firm may provide the necessary resources for an approved CME/CPD Provider to plan and conduct a CME/CPD activity. However, the CME/CPD Provider and its CME/CPD organizer are directly responsible for the academic and scientific merit of the event in such situations. Moreover, the CME/CPD Provider and the CME/CPD organizer must take responsibility for preparing an Evaluation Report, maintaining attendance records and issuing certificates of participation.

Who gives CME/CPD credit points to participants?

The CME/CPD organizer is required to issue an official document to every participant to certify attendance and to indicate the CME/CPD credits that may be claimed.