ACOG

Program for Continuing Professional Development Cognate Program

American College of Obstetricians
and Gynecologists

ACOG Program for Continuing Professional Development (Cognate Program) for ACOG Physicians

Participants in the ACOG Program for Continuing Professional Development (Cognate Program) can review their cognate activity on the member side of the ACOG website.

If you have not registered, please go to www.acog.org, click on ACOG Member Login, and Register. Once you have been granted access to the member side, click on the "Quick Link" – My CME Transcript or click on Education from the navigation bar and choose CME (Cognate) Activity Report. You will not be able to register more than one physician per email address. Each physician must have his or her own unique email address.

We encourage you to review your transcript online. We can provide transcripts upon written request. If you need a computer-generated transcript mailed to you, the processing fee is $25. Please include the processing fee with your written request. Transcripts will be processed on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Cycle updates are done in January of each year and the ACOG Award for Continuing Professional Development is issued automatically to participants who successfully complete the program. The program requires a minimum of 150 cognate credits within a 3-year cycle to earn the award certificate.

If there are any questions regarding the Program for Continuing Professional Development, which is also referred to as the Cognate Program, please feel free to contact us.

Cognate Program
PO Box 96920
Washington, DC 20090-6920

Phone: 1-800-673-8444, ext 2405 or 2556
202-863-2405
Fax: 202-484-1586
Email: cognates@acog.org

Overview

Many states require continuing medical education (CME) to maintain a license to practice medicine. In 1974, ACOG introduced its Program for Continuing Professional Development, referred to as the Cognate Program. This voluntary program is designed to maintain CME credits and assist participants in meeting individual state requirements. Each ACOG cognate credit continues to be recognized as equivalent to an AMA PRA Category 1 credit™.

The program is based on 6 years, two 3-year cycles. The first 3-year cycle is established at the date of the earliest reported activity. A physician member wishing to join the Program may submit activities for the past two calendar years plus the current year. To receive an award, a participant must earn a minimum of 150 Cognate Credits within each 3-year cycle. The award is issued automatically to a participant who successfully completes the program. Fulfilling the requirements will also qualify one for the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

How to Participate in the Program

The program is open to all physician categories of ACOG. Enrollment in the program is automatic upon ACOG's receipt of the first appropriate continuing medical education activity verification. Appropriate verification is a certificate of attendance or correspondence from the sponsor indicating that the sponsor is ACCME accredited, the activity was designated for Category 1 Credit, and that the individual completed the activity. The certificate should include name and the ACOG ID number, the date of the activity, title of the program, and the number of credits earned. If the activity is self-learning or related specifically to special topics (ie, ethics/professional responsibility, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS programs, infection control, risk management/ professional liability, or ultrasound education, pain management or geriatrics), the sponsor must indicate this information on the copy. When forwarding validation to ACOG:

- Please check all certificates/correspondence for accuracy. ACOG staff will interpret the information and record it in your cognate file. Incorrect information may be invalidated.
- Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the activity.
- Include your ACOG identification number on the copy. It is the 7-digit number that appears on your ACOG membership card and above your name on all ACOG mailing labels.
- Mail correspondence to ACOG Cognate Program, PO Box 96920, Washington DC 20090-6920.
- Fax a copy of the appropriate verification to 202-484-1586. Please include your 7-digit ACOG ID number.

Credits for ACOG's enduring materials are recorded upon receipt of the appropriate posttest or evaluation form. The cognate credits for the ACOG Update series are recorded at the end of each calendar year. Credit for the ABC examination is also automatic.

Category 1, Formal Learning Activities and Definitions

Category 1, Formal Learning, is defined as activities planned, coordinated, administered, and evaluated in terms of specific educational objectives for a defined group of individuals. Formal Learning must be sponsored by an organization accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and designated by that sponsoring organization for Category 1 CME credit. Certificates issued by the sponsoring organization must specify that the activity meets either ACOG or American Medical Association Category 1 criteria. The certificate also must state the maximum number of hours that can be claimed for the activity.

Special Topics

To assist in meeting individual state requirements, postgraduate courses or meetings, enduring materials, or lectures related to specific topics will be identified on the transcript. These topics include:

- Ethics/professional responsibility
- Domestic violence
- HIV/AIDS programs
- Infection control
- Risk management/professional liability
- Ultrasound education
- Pain Management
- Geriatrics

Activity	Description	Cognate Credits	How to Obtain Credit
American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Recertification Examinations	Examinations prepared and administered by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology	Certificate Renewal evaluation process is 40 credits. Annual Board Certification Renewal evaluation process with 70% answered correctly. 120 questions is 25 credits. 180 questions is 35 credits, Subspecialty is 30 credits.	Submit documentation from ABOG only if credit was not automatically updated from electronic file. ABOG reports to ACOG the total credits earned for the ABC examination.
ACCME Category 1 Approved Programs	Non-ACOG postgraduate courses/meetings accredited by an ACCME sponsor	Per hour of attendance	Submit a copy of the certificate of attendance or correspondence from the sponsor indicating the sponsor is ACCME accredited and the activity was designated for Category 1 credit and credits earned
ACCME Category 1 Self-Instructional Programs	Accredited self-instructional programs related to the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology	Per hour of study	Submit documentation from ACCME sponsor indicating that the activity was a self-instructional enduring material program and indicating number of credits earned
ACOG Audiovisual Library (CME films only)	Medical and surgical videotapes with an accompanying illustrated monograph that clearly states that the program carries CME credit	Per hour of study	The cognate credits are recorded automatically upon completion and submission of the posttest or the evaluation form that accompanied the film

Activity	Description	Cognate Credits	How to Obtain Credit
ACOG Meetings and Postgraduate Courses	Annual Clinical Meeting (ACM), District meetings, Section meetings, and Postgraduate Courses with formal evaluation, or other ACOG sponsored accredited CME meetings	Per hour of attendance	Submit a written request for credit only if validation did not occur at the meeting
ACOG Self-Instructional Programs	Programs in audio, monograph or CD-ROM format that concentrate on specific areas in obstetrics and gynecology	Per hour of study	Cognate credits are recorded automatically upon completion and submission of the posttest or the evaluation form that accompanied the Self-Instructional Program
ACOG Clinical Updates in Women's Health Care	Monograph series designed for practicing ob-gyns who provide primary health care to women. Available quarterly	5 credit hours per issue (Note: 2 credit hours per issue for Volume 1 Issues 1 thru 4)	Cognate credits are recorded automatically upon completion and submission of the posttest
ACOG Update Tapes	Monthly programs of audio cassettes, each discussing clinical problems in obstetrics and gynecology closely linked to daily practice	Per hour of study	Cognate credits are recorded automatically upon completion and submission of the posttest. MIS reports to ACOG the total credits earned at the end of each calendar year
ACOG Webinar	ACOG Accredited on-line webcast	Per hour of study	Cognate credits are recorded automatically

Activity	Description	Cognate Credits	How to Obtain Credit
Hospital Training Sessions	Activities such as departmental scientific meetings, institutional training conferences and grand rounds approved for Category 1 by an accredited ACCME sponsor	Per hour of attendance	Submit a copy of the certificate of attendance or correspondence from the sponsor indicating the sponsor is ACCME accredited and the activity was designated for Category 1 credit
International Conferences	Organizations that have applied to AMA or EACCME to be recognized for credit. If they have been approved, the announcements will include the approval statement	Per hour of attendance	Submit documentation. The documentation must include the approval statement from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) or the American Medical Association (AMA) and indicate number of credits earned
Manuscript Reviewing for ACOG publications (as determined by ACOG) and for peer reviewed journals included in Index Medicus	Physicians participating in the manuscript review process. All standards as outlined by the AMA must be met	A maximum of 3 cognate credits per each review article. A maximum of 5 reviews per year. Maximum credits apply to the combination of all manuscript reviews.	Cognate credits are recorded automatically for ACOG publications. All others require documentation from the ACCME accredited sponsor showing Category 1 designation and credits earned.
Medically Related Degrees (*No degree earned prior to 2004 will be given cognate credit)*	Earning an advanced degree in an area related to medicine, such as a master's in public health	25 cognate credits following the award of the degree	Submit a copy of the diploma or transcript
Poster Presentation at an ACCME accredited meeting *(No activities prior to 2004 will be given cognate credit)*	Presenting a poster at a medical meeting designated for Category 1 Credit	5 cognate credits per poster, 1 poster per year	Submit a page from the program with the presentation abstract and identification of the presenter. Include page indicating Category 1 designation for the meeting
PROLOG	ACOG Personal Review of Learning in Obstetrics and Gynecology for self assessment	25 cognate credits	Credited automatically upon completion and submission of the posttest

Activity	Description	Cognate Credits	How to Obtain Credit
Published Articles in a peer-reviewed journal or ACOG publications as defined by ACOG *(No activities prior to 2004 will be given cognate credit)*	1st or 2nd author ** of an article published in OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY, ACOG Clinical Updates, PROLOG or a peer-reviewed journal (publications included in Index Medicus) **as stated on the by-line	10 cognate credits per article, 1 article per year	Submit a reprint of the first page of the article
Teaching at ACCME accredited meetings *(No activities prior to 2004 will be given cognate credit)*	Teaching at a medical meeting designated for Category 1 Credit	2 cognate credits for each hour of teaching, with a maximum of 10 credits per year	Submit a program or announcement of the activity with identification of the presenter and show the Category 1 designation for the meeting
Test Writing Activities for ACOG Educational Programs	Physician question writers participating in the development of an ACOG educational program. All criteria as outlined under the AMA guidelines must be followed	10 cognate credits per activity, per year	Cognate credits are submitted automatically during the writing process