**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the first step in planning a CME activity?**

Contact Dr. Chanise Reese-Queen Executive Director, Professional Development and Education, creese-qeen@som.umaryland.edu to schedule an initial planning.

**What type of professional accreditation does the UMSOM have?**

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education (CME) for physicians. As an accredited provider, UMSOM is authorized by the American Medical Association (AMA) to award **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** to physicians for its CME activities that meet the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award (PRA) standards.

**What is Continuing Medical Education (CME)?**

Continuing medical education consists of educational activities which serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession. The content of CME is that body of knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of health care to the public.

**Who is the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)?**

The ACCME accredits organizations that offer continuing medical education for physicians by creating a framework that supports, inspires, and motivates educators to achieve their full potential. We set the standards for education that accelerates learning, change, and growth in healthcare. Our standards reflect the values of our educator community and respond to the evolving healthcare environment. As a result, clinicians and teams can drive improvement in their practice and optimize the care, health, and wellness of their patients.

**Who is the American Medical Association (AMA)?**

Founded in 1847, the American Medical Association (AMA) is the largest and only national association that convenes 190+ state and specialty medical societies and other critical stakeholders. Throughout history, the AMA has always followed its mission: to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health.

As the physicians’ powerful ally in patient care, the AMA delivers on this mission by representing physicians with a unified voice in courts and legislative bodies across the nation, removing obstacles that interfere with patient care, leading the charge to prevent chronic disease and confront public health crises, and driving the future of medicine to tackle the biggest challenges in health care and training the leaders of tomorrow.

**What is a Regularly Schedule Series (RSS)?**

A regularly scheduled series is a live activity planned as a series with multiple, ongoing sessions, e.g., offered weekly, monthly, or quarterly. A regularly scheduled series is primarily planned by and presented to the accredited organization’s professional staff and generally targets the same audience over the whole series. Examples include grand rounds, tumor boards, and morbidity and mortality conferences.

**What is an Ineligible Company?**

Ineligible companies are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. Examples of such organizations include:

* Advertising, marketing, or communication firms whose clients are ineligible companies
* Bio-medical startups that have begun a governmental regulatory approval process
* Compounding pharmacies that manufacture proprietary compounds
* Device manufacturers or distributors
* Diagnostic labs that sell proprietary products
* Growers, distributors, manufacturers or sellers of medical foods and dietary supplements
* Manufacturers of health-related wearable products
* Pharmaceutical companies or distributors
* Pharmacy benefit managers
* Reagent manufacturers or sellers

**What are relevant financial relationships?**

Financial relationships are relevant if the educational content an individual can control is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company

**Can employees or owners of an ineligible company participate in the planning a CME activity?**

Per ACCME, employees or owners of an ineligible company must be excluded from controlling content or participating as planners or faculty in accredited education. There are three exceptions to this exclusion—employees of ineligible companies can participate as planners or faculty in these specific situations:

1. When the content of the activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company.  
   b. When the content of the accredited activity is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations.

c. When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.

**What do planners and speakers need to disclose?**

Planners and speakers in control of content must disclose **all** their financial relationships with ineligible companies within the prior **24** months. There is no minimum financial threshold; individuals must disclose all financial relationships, regardless of the amount, with ineligible companies. Individuals must disclose regardless of their view of the relevance of the relationship to education.

**How do I view and download my CME transcript from CloudCME?**

[Click here for instructions](https://umaryland.cloud-cme.com/assets/umaryland/PDF/Instructions%20for%20Obtaining%20a%20CME%20Transcript%20UMID.pdf)

**What is the organization code for CloudCME app?**

The code is umaryland