Purpose

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC) is a leading not-for-profit provider of quality medical care. Continuing medical education (CME) is provided to members of its medical staff, as well as physicians in the region, and physicians throughout the United States and the world who participate in that education. CME is a fundamental asset to the maintenance of quality and patient safety.

CSMC’s CME program exists to improve physician competence, enhance performance-in-practice, and the continual improvement in the outcomes of patient care. As such, the CME Program encompasses a broad and comprehensive range of topics based on the identified gaps in the needs of the physician communities it serves. As a system of care, emphasis is placed on the identification of areas for improvement through the system’s Quality Improvement efforts for which CME is a change-agent.

The outcomes of the educational process are used to impact the overall improvement to the program on a continuous basis.

Content

The content of the CSMC CME program includes a broad range of primary care and specialty topics that are determined through a comprehensive needs assessment process. The needs assessment process determines gaps in knowledge or performance, defined as the difference between current practice and best practice. As a major teaching institution, such topics are derived from the needs of learners, experts, national guidelines, and observed quality indicators within the health system.

Educational Audiences

Learners that utilize the CSMC CME program include the following:

- Physicians from CSMC.
- Other physicians in the Southern California region.
- Physicians from California, the United States and other countries in the world.
- Health Care Professionals as part of a multidisciplinary team.
Types of Activities

CSMC offers a variety of CME activities, including the following:

- **Regularly Scheduled Series (RSS)**—Including grand rounds, clinical case conferences, and tumor boards.
- **Live Conferences**—Both directly sponsored and jointly sponsored activities are offered to physicians affiliated with the health system, and to physicians from the United States and other countries of the world.
- **Internet-Based Education**—Both live and enduring web-based education is offered for activities that target a large, diverse, and geographically distant audience.
- **Enduring Materials**—Print and electronic enduring materials are also offered to learners.

Learning methods are selected based on the identified needs and type of intervention planned. The planners’ understanding of the scope of practice associated with targeted audience determines the overall educational design.

Expected Results

As a result of their involvement in the CME program, learners will demonstrate positive changes in competence, improvement in performance-in-practice, and/or improved patient outcomes. Metrics for determination of success include the following:

- For changes in competence, outcomes assessments will determine that knowledge was gained, and/or confidence increased, and that a strategy was present for using the knowledge gained.
- For improvements in performance-in-practice, outcomes assessments will show that physicians implemented new behaviors in their practice that were intended as results of the educational activity.
- For improvements in patient outcomes, (1) learner observations of patient outcomes will indicate that intended improvements were realized, and/or (2) CSMC quality indicators will demonstrate intended improvements in health indicators.

APPROVALS:

- Revised and Approved: Continuing Medical Education Committee, 09/25/09
- Revised and Approved: Clinical Resources Committee, 10/29/09
- Revised and Approved: Board of Directors, 11/23/09
- Reviewed and Approved: Continuing Medical Education Subcommittee, 01/19/11