



**Kuwait Institute for
Medical Specialization**

CME Center

***Maintenance of
Professional
Competence***
for Pharmacists

Booklet of Information









Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization

Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS) is the authority responsible for organizing all aspects of postgraduate training of medical practitioners and other health professionals in Kuwait. The institute is engaged in a variety of activities, including the organization of internship training of pre-registration medical graduates, specialty training at various levels in different medical fields, and continuing medical education and continuing professional development programs for health professionals practicing in Kuwait.



To provide specialty level training programs in the different fields of medicine, KIMS has established a number of Faculties and Scientific Committees, which initiate and coordinate postgraduate training. They are in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, Anesthesia, and Dentistry. The organization of accredited continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) programs for the maintenance of professional competence (MPC) is administered by the CME Center, assisted by the CME Council.





Contents

Introduction	1
What is CME/CPD?	2
What are the objectives of MPC Program?....	3
Who is the target audience for CME/CPD activities for?.....	4
What is the procedure for participation in maintenance of competence activities?	4
How is participation in CME/CPD activities recorded?	4
Who are CME Providers?.....	5
Who is a CME Organizer?.....	5
How is an activity for maintenance of competence accredited?.....	6
Are credit points granted by external agencies accepted?	6
Where is information on CME/CPD activities available?	7
How does the credits system operate and what are the CME/CPD categories?	8
Categories of CME/CPD	9
Category 1	
Category 2	
How is the MPC program administered?	10





Introduction

The CME Program in Kuwait was launched in September 2000, with medical and dental practitioners as the target audience. The scheme, renamed MPC (maintenance of professional competence), is now being expanded to benefit a wider range of health professionals, and this booklet outlines information that is relevant to pharmacists.

The Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS) is the authority designated by the Ministry of Health to oversee the organization of formal activities for continuing medical education and continuing professional development in Kuwait. The CME Center of KIMS manages the routine implementation of the program.

Continuing medical education (CME) and Continuing professional development (CPD) are considered essential for the practitioner of today to keep abreast of the developments in the respective fields of interest. In addition to being engaged in relevant professional development activities, maintaining documentation as evidence of participation remains the responsibility of the individual practitioner.

This booklet, aimed primarily at prospective participants of CME/CPD activities in the field of Pharmacy, gives an outline of the relevant aspects of the MPC Program. Interested readers are requested to visit the CME Center website www.kims.org.kw/cme for information on the administration of the scheme and calendar of events. Details of individual programs and their scheduling are available from the organizers of the respective activities.





What is CME/CPD?

Continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) comprise all education aimed at assisting health professionals to carry out their professional duties more effectively. It represents the education of health professionals after they complete formal training. CME/CPD therefore consists of any educational activity that helps to maintain, develop or increase knowledge, problem-solving, technical skills or professional performance standards.

CME is understood by many to encompass activities undertaken by health professionals once they have completed the requisite undergraduate and, where relevant, postgraduate specialty training. Though the term was used initially to refer to learning in medical subjects, with the acceptance of the importance of many non-medical subjects for optimum performance, CME has taken a wider meaning. The term CPD has been introduced subsequently as a more appropriate alternative, and covers the development of an expanded range of professional competencies and attributes than learning in medical subjects. Some may view CPD as encompassing activities undertaken by many categories of health professionals.

Both terms CME and CPD are in use today, often synonymously. The overall goal of CME/CPD is the maintenance of professional competence (MPC), and the CME Program of KIMS is renamed MPC Program to reflect this aim. In this booklet, the term MPC refers to educational activities undertaken by health professionals for the purpose of professional development, and includes educational events that contribute to maintenance or enhancement of competencies.



What are the objectives of the MPC Program?

The overall goal of the MPC Program is to improve the performance of the health professional in his practice, and thus enhance the care that patients and the community receive. The MPC Program facilitates health professionals to keep abreast of the developments in their specialties so that they could achieve this goal.

The MPC Program has the following main objectives:

- To ensure that all health professionals participate in accredited educational programs;
- To demonstrate to patients, the public and peers that health professionals are committed to life-long education;
- To provide opportunities for professional development to all, instead of limiting them to those who may be identified as under-performing;
- To provide a standardized and readily available mechanism for documenting participation.



Who is the target audience for CME/CPD activities?

The MPC Program is now being expanded to benefit pharmacists.

Every practitioner in the field of pharmacy has the opportunity to obtain a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of CME/CPD, by acquiring a minimum of 125 credit points within a five-year cycle. The certificate that would be issued by KIMS would be valid for five years from the date of issue. Trainees in approved postgraduate training programs and practitioners registered in advanced degree programs in pharmacy are exempt from satisfying the credit point requirement.

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

Enrolment in relevant educational activities is open to all concerned. The organizers would announce the events that have been registered. The CME Center furnishes basic information about activities at www.kims.org.kw/cme, the *Bulletin of KIMS*, and through brochures and circulars. Prospective participants should apply direct to the organizers for enrollment. On completion, the organizer would issue a certificate of attendance to the participant, which would also indicate the credits gained.

How is CME/CPD participation recorded?

Practitioners who participate in accredited activities are expected to maintain documentation on participation throughout the five-year cycle. A portfolio is available through the supplier (Visit www.kims.org.kw/cme).



Who are CME/CPD Providers?

The CME/CPD Provider is an institution that is accredited by the CME Center for planning and conducting CME/CPD activities.

The following institutions and organizations, which have expertise to conduct activities at a national level, have been recognized at present:

- Faculties and Scientific Committees of KIMS;
- Health Sciences Faculties of Kuwait University;
- Specialty divisions of the Ministry of Health;
- Health professions associations, e.g. Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association, Kuwait Medical Association, Kuwait Dental Association and their specialty societies, and Kuwait Nursing Association.

Who is a CME/CPD organizer?

The CME/CPD organizer is an individual who takes immediate responsibility for an activity designed for CME/CPD. Depending on the subject area of a given activity, an appropriate content specialist functions as the CME/CPD organizer on behalf of the CME/CPD Provider. He or she would deal with:

- Initiating, and developing the program;
- Identifying overall goals and specific objectives, subject content, target group, resource persons, financial and logistical support, plan of program evaluation, venue, scheduling etc.
- Registering the activity with the CME Center and, after registration, announcing it among the prospective participants;
- Coordinating the activity, carrying out an evaluation, maintaining the participant list, and providing certificates of attendance.



How is a CME/CPD activity accredited?

The organizers should apply to the CME Center for accreditation of their programs, furnishing the relevant information. Complete details need to be received three weeks in advance. The forms required are available at the CME Center website www.kims.org.kw/cme, and at the CME Center at KIMS, 10th Floor, Behbehani Complex, Al-Sharq.

Are credit points granted by external agencies accepted?

CME/CPD credit points obtained by participating in approved programs organized by internationally recognized educational and scientific institutions abroad could be considered for acceptance under the MPC Program of KIMS as evidence of activities aimed at maintenance of professional competence.



Where is information on CME/CPD activities available?

Information on the activities scheduled is available to prospective participants via the following channels:

1. Brochures and announcements by organizers

The organizer produces brochures and announcements regarding activities that he or she is responsible for planning, and distributes them to educational and scientific institutions, hospitals, clinics and other interested parties.

2. CME Center web site

The CME Center maintains its web site at www.kims.org.kw/cme. Basic information about CME/CPD activities is available at this site.

3. Bulletin of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization

The *Bulletin of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization*, the journal published by KIMS, gives information that the Editorial Office of the journal had received at the time of publication.

4. Kuwait Pharmaceutical Journal

Schedules and other details of CME/CPD activities are published in the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Journal.

5. Announcements by Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association

The Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association prepares and circulates announcements about the scheduled activities for CME/CPD.



How does the credits system operate and what are the CME/CPD categories?

Activities for CME/CPD have been categorized into two groups, taking into account:

- Type of Provider;
- Extent to which the activity is structured;
- Organizational resources required for planning and conducting the program;
- Degree of involvement of the participants in the learning opportunities, and
- Choice of scheduling and the venue.

Each accredited activity would have a credit point value assigned to it. Participants are required to submit data annually on the number of credit points gained during the preceding year. The CME Center would make an announcement regarding submitting credits, and an online data form will be available through the Internet.

Categories of CME/CPD

Category 1

Activities under Category 1 comprise formal learning opportunities provided by recognized educational institutions or professional bodies, and accredited by the CME Center of KIMS.

Conferences, lectures, symposia, group learning, seminars etc., which are structured and formal, entitle the participants to claim 1 credit point for every one contact hour of educational activity.

Category 2

Category 2 activities are those that are essentially of a self-learning nature, or are planned and conducted with a local participant group in mind. Many of the activities that fall within Category 2 may be less structured from the viewpoint of learning than those coming within Category 1.

Category 2 includes many self-instructional formats, reading scientific papers in journals, research and professional publications, ongoing activities at health care, educational or scientific institutions (E.g. patient care review activities) teaching of health professionals, writing questions for examinations, journal clubs, self-assessment examinations and reviews, use of approved self-instructional materials, publication of books or articles in pharmacy or related specialties, and books and exhibits related to own specialty.

Activities in Category 2, in general, would entitle the participant for credit at the rate of 0.5 point per hour of participation.

Some activities in either category have credit ratings different from those mentioned above.

How is the MPC Program administered?

The implementation and monitoring of CME/CPD activities are coordinated by the CME Center of KIMS. The CME Council, constituted by the CME Officers appointed to represent the different Faculties of KIMS and subspecialties, assist the CME Center in this task. The CME Center is headed by its Director who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the MPC Program under the overall administrative supervision of the Secretary General of KIMS.

The CME Officer for Pharmacy coordinates the continuing education activities in the field of pharmacy and in other fields of interest to pharmacists. He or she works in close liaison with the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Kuwait University and the CME Center of KIMS. The CME Officer for Pharmacy should be contacted for information on how the scheme is administered and how it benefits pharmacists.

Detailed information about the MPC Program and its mode of implementation is available from the publications put out by the CME Center and from:

CME Center Website www.kims.org.kw/cme

Additional details beyond those available in the above sources may be obtained from:

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