



Desirable Physician Attributes

Transcript of Video FAQ
June 4, 2009

<http://education.accme.org/video/accme-video-faq/desirable-physician-attributes>

Description: Can you explain what the ACCME means by “desirable physician attributes”? How should they be used when planning CME activities?

C.6 talks about desirable physician attributes. There's a range of attributes. We chose this term so not to restrict anyone to the ACGME or ABMS competencies. Institute of Medicine articulated some desirable physician attributes or outcomes that they would hope; and there are many other organizations who have described abilities or competencies that they would like physicians to be, and all professionals to be, using.

ACCME leaves it to the accredited provider to identify which of these competencies they want. ACCME wants to be able to identify for the accreditation process which of these competencies you've used to plan your educational activities. Sometimes accredited providers will say: This is an activity about professionalism and we're going to design an activity about professionalism and how to behave under certain circumstances. The whole educational activity is planned in that context and that's what you measure and that's what you are trying to accomplish. Sometimes you'll develop your activity on the basis of a professional practice gap, a knowledge or competence or performance issue, and then you'll look back reflectively at the activity that you've produced and say: This activity addresses this desirable physician attribute, this competency, this Institute of Medicine area of concern. All your activities need to be planned in that context; the reason being, is that your learners need those activities planned in that way. Ninety percent of the physicians in this country are involved in board certification. Eventually all of those physicians are going to need to participate in maintenance of certification and demonstrate that they're participating in programs and educational activities that are a) tagged to their scope of practice and b) linked to a competency.

So this is a great service that you can do for your learners. So, yes, continuing medical education activities need to address desirable physician attributes, they need to be planned in the context of, they need to be retrospectively identified with each of those; [this is] how you report to us at the Accreditation Council when you are getting reaccreditation. But does it have to have a label on it each time? No.

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