



Identifying Other Factors that Impact Patient Outcomes

Transcript of Video FAQ

June 4, 2009

<http://education.accme.org/video/accme-video-faq/identifying-other-factors-impact-patient-outcomes>

Description: How can my learners benefit from the identification of "factors outside of the provider's control that impact on patient outcomes"?

Criterion 18 asks the providers to identify barriers outside their control that affect patient outcomes—the patient outcomes of their learners. And this is important because continuing medical education addresses professional practice gaps, addresses the information that the individual has, their strategies and their performance. But yet everyone wants that information to be translated ultimately into improvements in health care. And there's a difference between what the physician can do and the physician microsystem, that the physician operates in, can do and what the ultimate outcome is for the patients. There are many, many variables in between outcome and physician practice. And we think that, at ACCME, it's important for you as accredited providers to understand those barriers. For two reasons: one is, you can't be held accountable for changes in health outcomes that don't occur when the barriers are unrelated to you or to your physicians. The other is that they can inform your learners and you as an accreditor about what else you can do for continuing medical education. There's nothing wrong with teaching people how to overcome those barriers. If it's persuasion and negotiation skills they need in order to let other people in the health care team let them practice that way—then you would be well served to identify those barriers and see if you can transform them into something that gets out of the way and allows your learners to practice the way you tried to teach them.

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