



# THE ESSENTIAL AREAS AND THEIR ELEMENTS

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**2006 *UPDATED* DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA  
RELEVANT TO THE ESSENTIAL AREAS AND ELEMENTS**

Measurement criteria have been established for the Elements of the Essential Areas. If a provider meets the criteria for the Elements within the Essential Area, the provider will be deemed to be 'In Compliance.'

Essential Area and Element(s)	Criteria for Compliance
<p>Essential Area 1: Purpose And Mission</p> <p>The provider must, E 1 Have a written statement of its CME mission, which includes the CME purpose, content areas, target audience, type of activities provided, and expected results of the program.</p>	<p>C 1 The provider has a CME mission statement that includes all of the basic components (CME purpose, content areas, target audience, type of activities, expected results) with expected results articulated in terms of changes in competence, performance, or patient outcomes that will be the result of the program.</p>

Essential Area 2:  
Educational Planning

The provider must,  
E 2.1 Use a planning process(es) that links identified educational needs with a desired result in its provision of all CME activities.  
E 2.2 Use needs assessment data to plan CME activities.

Essential Area and Element(s)	Criteria for Compliance
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Essential Area 3: Evaluation and Improvement</p> <p>The provider must, E 2.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of its CME activities in meeting identified educational needs. E 2.5 Evaluate the effectiveness of its overall CME program and make improvements to the program.</p>	<p>C 11. The provider analyzes changes in learners (competence, performance, activities/educational interventions C 12. The provider gathers data or information and conducts a program-based analysis on the degree to which the CME mission of the provider has been met through the conduct of CME activities/educational interventions. C 13. The provider identifies, plans and implements the needed or desired changes in the overall program (e.g., planners, teachers, infrastructure, methods, resources, facilities, interventions) that are required to improve on ability to meet the CME mission. C 14. The provider demonstrates that identified program changes or meet the CME mission, are underway or completed. C 15. The provider demonstrates that the impacts of program improvements, that are required to im mission, are measured.</p>

Accreditation  
with Commendation

In order for an organization to achieve the status Accreditation with Commendation, the provider must demonstrate

THE ACCME STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL SUPPORT<sup>SM</sup>  
Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities

STANDARD 1: INDEPENDENCE

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(c)  
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