



COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

40 Years Later: Current and Future Opportunities and Challenges in Continuing Pharmacy Education

Jeffrey W. Wadelin, PhD
ACPE | Chicago, Illinois

Objectives

1. Identify the optimal future state of accredited continuing pharmacy education (CPE), including its relationship to:
 - a. Continuing professional development (CPD) practices,
 - b. Practitioner privileging in health care delivery organizations, and
 - c. Interprofessional education (IPE) and practice.
2. Assess current conditions with respect to accredited CPE, taking into account the diversity of educational needs among practitioners, the status of CPD, and the perspectives of practitioners, pharmacy owners, health care delivery organizations, CPE providers, regulators, the public, and accreditors (ACPE and others).
3. Identify viable options for moving from current conditions to the optimal future state of accredited CPE.

Methods

Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consensus-seeking invitational conference convened by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), held on October 29-30, 2015, in Chicago, Illinois. ACPE's desire to have stakeholder guidance on its role in the future of continuing pharmacy education and continuing professional development led to the convening of the conference. • Sixty individuals were offered the opportunity to participate in the Conference. These individuals, representing a broad perspective on the profession of pharmacy, included continuing pharmacy education providers, pharmacy organization leaders, practitioners from a variety of settings (including community, health systems, and managed care), regulators, employers, academics, and members of the ACPE Board of Directors, CPE Commission, and staff.
Study endpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of Conference recommendations was presented to the ACPE CPE Commission for consideration at its November 2015 meeting. Following discussion and refinement by the Commission, the recommendations were presented to the ACPE Board of Directors for ratification at its January 2016 meeting. The recommendations took the form of multipoint responses to two fundamental questions (see Results below).

Results

- (1) What next steps should the profession take to ensure practitioner competence based on marketplace and regulatory changes in the next 10-15 years?
 - Develop internal education and/or credentialing requirements for practitioners that align with specific organizational goals to advance team delivered patient care.
 - Develop a CPD portfolio that will support lifelong learning and competency throughout the career of a pharmacist and pharmacy technician.
 - Lead the development and implementation (through CPE Monitor™ enhancements) of:
 - Competency-based self-assessment instruments to assist pharmacists and technicians in identifying their education gaps, and
 - Storage of documentation of CPE, non-CPE, CPD activities (e.g., adult learning transcript/CV) to be available to be viewed by employers, payers, The Joint Commission and other regulatory agencies, etc. (as approved by practitioner).

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- (2) How can the value of CPE be optimized over the next 10-15 years?
 - Encourage development of a hybrid CPE/CPD model for maintaining practitioner competence that takes into account the diversity of professional roles and the relative effect of various activities on patient safety and outcomes.
 - Collaborate with AACP, Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy, and ASHP to educate students and residents in lifelong learning skills/CPD for faculty (including preceptors) and students in professional degree programs and residency programs.
 - Support research on assessing the value of CPD portfolios in maintaining pharmacy practitioner competence.
 - Develop a culture of voluntary lifelong learning that accommodates both individualization and practice-specific needs.
 - Study the current types of CPE activities (Knowledge, Application, and Practice) and hour requirements for enhancements.

Conclusion

This October 2015 invitational conference provided opportunity to reflect on the 40-year history of the ACPE Continuing Pharmacy Education Provider Accreditation Program, and to seek consensus on how to ensure that accredited CPE and CPD will be well-aligned with the needs of the public and the profession of pharmacy. Through this conference and related activities, key opinion leaders throughout pharmacy provided guidance to ACPE for the current and future direction of accreditation of CPE providers and the further development of CPD. Participants in the conference and individuals who study the proceedings will deepen their understanding of the critical external and internal challenges to pharmacy continuing education and accreditation. They will also be inspired to contribute to the ongoing process of ensuring that ACPE accreditation of CPE providers is a constructive force in ensuring that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have the competencies needed by the public now and in the future.