AMA PRA Frequently Asked Questions for Physicians
Prepared by Baystate Continuing Education
Learn.baystatehealth.org
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Source: AMA PRA website

How does a physician earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™?
There are three ways for physicians to earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™:

a. By participating in certified activities sponsored by CME providers accredited by either the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). Baystate Health is a nationally accredited provider of Continuing Education.

b. By teaching at educational activities designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Faculty can submit their record of teaching at live activities that are designated for such directly to the AMA.

NOTE: Effective January 2013, Baystate physicians who teach at Baystate sponsored Continuing Education activities can view and print their history of teaching at Baystate Continuing Education activities. To access these records:
   a. go to www.baystathealth.org/learn
   b. Click on the link on the left For Presenters
   c. Click on the first link Instructor Portal Log In
   d. Log-in with your en number or pn number. Include the letters en or pn.
   e. Click on View my Past Courses

Brochures including talk titles, the AMA credit statement, and faculty names for Baystate’s regional seminars are saved in the Course Brochures section of the website. Older courses are filed by year in the brochure archive file at www.baystatehealth.org/learn

Please see the last section of this document for details on claiming credit for teaching.

c. By participating in activities recognized by the AMA as valid educational activities. Physicians receive AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ for these activities directly from the AMA. Information about qualifying activities can be found at www.ama-assn.org/go/directcredit.
What types of CME activities does Baystate certify for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*

- **Live activities** – These are CME activities that occur at a specific time. Participation may be in person or remotely as is the case of teleconferences or live Internet webinars.

- **Enduring materials** – These are CME activities that endure over a specified amount of time. Baystate’s certified “enduring materials” are internet courses.

To access these courses:
   - Go to [www.baystatehealth.org/learn](http://www.baystatehealth.org/learn)
   - Click on the link **internet courses**
   - Courses listed with AMA PRA Category 1 Credit have been certified for credit.

- **Performance improvement CME (PI CME)** – CME activity in which an accredited CME provider structures a long-term three-stage process by which a physician or group of physicians learn about specific performance measures, assess their practice using the selected performance measures, implement interventions to improve performance related to these measures over a useful interval of time, and then reassess their practice using the same performance measures. A PI CME activity may address any facet (structure, process or outcome) of a physician’s practice with direct implications for patient care.

- **Internet point of care learning** - CME activity structured by an accredited CME provider in which a physician engages in self-directed, online learning on topics relevant to their clinical practice. Learning for this activity includes a reflective process in which a physician must document their clinical question, the sources consulted and the application to practice. Note: Baystate Continuing Education is not currently assigning this type of credit.

All activities certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* by an accredited CME provider must meet all requirements for one of the above learning formats as well as the AMA’s core requirements for all activity formats.

2. **What About Category 2 Credit?**

*AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™* is CME credit which is self-designated and claimed by individual physicians for participation in activities not certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* that:

- Comply with the AMA definition of CME; and
- Comply with the relevant AMA ethical opinions; at the time of this writing this includes 8.061 “Gifts to Physicians from Industry” and 9.011 “Continuing Medical Education,” and
- Are not promotional; and
• A physician finds to be a worthwhile learning experience related to his/her practice. **Examples of learning activities that might meet the requirements for AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™ include**, but are not limited to:
  • Teaching residents, medical students or other health professionals
  • Unstructured online searching and learning
  • Reading authoritative medical literature
  • Consultation with peers and medical experts
  • Small group discussions
  • Self assessment activities
  • Medical writing
  • Preceptorship participation
  • Research
  • Peer review and quality assurance participation

A physician must individually assess the educational value for each learning experience in which he or she participates to determine if it is appropriate to claim AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™.

8. How does a physician earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ directly from the AMA?

Physicians may earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ directly from the AMA for the learning that occurs in the following activities approved by the AMA Council on Medical Education:
  • **Teaching in Live CME Activities** – Credit may only be claimed for preparing and presenting an original presentation at a live activity that has been certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. The physician can claim two credits for every one hour talk.
  • **Publishing articles** - Publishing, as a lead author (first listed), a peer-reviewed article in a journal included in the MEDLINE bibliographic database.
  • **Poster presentations** - Preparing a poster presentation, as the first author, which is included in the published abstracts, at an activity certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.
  • **Medically related advanced degrees** – Obtaining a medically related advanced degree, such as a masters in public health (not available if the academic program certified individual courses for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™).
  • **American Board of Medical Specialty (ABMS) member board certification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC®)** - Successfully completing an ABMS board certification or MOC process.
  • **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited education** – Successfully participating in an ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship program.

To claim the credit physicians must submit a copy of the completed application, along with the required documentation and appropriate processing fee. **Complete instructions are found on the form itself.**

14. Does the AMA or Baystate Continuing Education issue certificates for participation in activities that may qualify for *AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™*?

No. Physicians are not issued certificates which state they have been awarded *AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™*. **This credit is self-claimed and self-documented by physicians.** The physician should self-claim credit for appropriate *AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™* activities and document the activity title or description, subject or content area, date(s) of participation and number of credits claimed. Physicians may not claim *AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™* for an activity for which the physician has claimed *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Each physician is responsible for maintaining a record of their *AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™*.

As with live activities, physicians should claim credit based on their participation time with 60 minutes of participation equal to one (1) *AMA PRA Category 2 Credit™*; this credit is claimed in 15 minute or 0.25 credit increments, and physicians must round to the nearest quarter hour.

16. How are CME credits tracked for physicians?

There is no national centralized tracking of AMA PRA credits. Baystate Continuing Education keeps records of the *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* we assign to physicians.

*Your records are accessible via* [www.baystatehealth.org/learn](http://www.baystatehealth.org/learn)

*Sign in with your en number, pn number or CE ID number click on transcripts.*

*Your transcript includes* the live courses and enduring materials certified by Baystate Health for credits. The transcripts meets the AMA requirements. It includes

- The name of the CME provider – Baystate
- Title of the activity
- Learning format – live or enduring
- Location of the activity
- Date of the live activity or date you completed the internet course
- Number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits awarded.

*In addition, our site includes designations for risk management, end of life, and pain credits.*

*Each accredited CME provider is responsible for maintaining the record of the credits they assigned. Credits certified by other organizations are not included on Baystate’s transcript system.*