

CPD in Focus

Fall 2022

Update from the National Committee on Continuing Professional Development (NCCPD)

Other Learning Activities

Other learning activities, or OLAs, is a term used to describe a non-certified or unaccredited activity initiated by an organization within the health care pharmaceutical (HPI) industry that may engage other organizations to support the development and delivery of these activities. These activities are not eligible for Mainpro+® certification. These are not to be confused with non-certified activities created without the involvement of the pharmaceutical industry.

At the spring 2022 NCCPD meeting the committee passed the following motion regarding clarifying the types of organizations that are ineligible to submit CPD activities to the College of Family Physicians of Canada™ (CFPC) for certification:

Organizations that provide services for health care pharmaceutical industry (HPI), including but not limited to providing support for advisory boards, brand promotion, marketing or who work directly with HPI on educational program development, are ineligible to act as a provider for Mainpro+ certified CPD activities and may not submit applications to the CFPC or Chapters for Mainpro+ certification or ethical review.

When CFPC staff presented this new policy during a live webinar with providers in June 2022, we were asked if

this meant that not-for-profit physician organizations that create OLAs are no longer eligible providers for Mainpro+ certified activities. Staff agreed to take this question to the NCCPD fall meeting for clarification.

The NCCPD discussed the question with respect to not-for-profit physician organization involvement in OLAs and considered the same question with respect to all current eligible provider organizations in the Mainpro+ system. After some discussion the committee amended the language of the spring decision as follows:

Organizations that provide promotional services for the health care pharmaceutical industry (HPI) are ineligible to act as a provider for Mainpro+ certified CPD activities and may not submit applications to the CFPC or Chapters for Mainpro+ certification or ethical review. Promotional services include, but are not limited to, support for advisory boards, brand promotion, or marketing. Eligible provider organizations may be involved with HPI in the **development of unaccredited learning activities, also known as Other Learning Activities (OLAs).**

In short, organizations that are currently considered eligible within the Mainpro+ Certification Standards (see page 6 of [Understanding Mainpro+ Certification](#)) are permitted to work with the HPI in the development of non-certified OLAs without threat to their eligibility to submit applications for Mainpro+ certified credits.

Certification Standards Working Group (CSWG)

As a result of recommendations from the Mainpro+ Standards Working Group (MSWG) the Certification Standards Working Group (CSWG) was formed in the spring of 2022 to examine the Mainpro+ Certification Standards taking into consideration the MSWG recommendations for changes in the Mainpro+ credit categories. The mandate of the CSWG is to establish, review, and potentially recommend changes to:

1. The Mainpro+ Certification Standards, including:
 - a. Eligibility for creating CPD that is recognized as eligible for certification by the CFPC (provider definitions and types, scientific planning committee composition, etc.)
 - b. Quality criteria framework and allotment of credits per hour
 - c. Credit categories and their definitions as per the MSWG recommendations, from the perspective of certification
 - d. Program design and delivery requirements
 - e. Requirements for ethical review
 - f. Explore options for self-certification of CPD programs by providers
 - g. Other aspects of certification as determined by the CSWG and staff

Additional goals

- Assess certification process for activities with and without external support, with the goal of simplifying the process for activities at low risk for bias
- Examine how the Certification Standards can improve equity, diversity, and inclusion in CPD development and delivery
- Review and ensure appropriateness of safeguards in place to address bias in CPD, particularly as it relates to programs supported by for-profit and the HPI

- Consider how certification standards can support innovation areas such as program delivery and design

The CSWG includes representatives from key CFPC stakeholder groups including program providers, patient partners, Mainpro+ reviewers, university CPD offices, CPD scholars, CFPC Chapters, and the NCCPD.

To support the examination of how the certification standards can improve equity, diversity, and inclusion in CPD, a smaller staff working group has been formed to compile evidence and best practices. We hope that this will better inform decision making for the CSWG and result in tangible solutions.

The CSWG has met twice and is scheduled to meet again in November. Additionally, a stakeholder discussion session was held at the 13th National CPD Accreditation Conference, which allowed the CFPC to present details on potential recommendations for change and gather feedback from participants. This was a very fruitful discussion that helped confirm that the CFPC is on the right track with potential recommendations as well as providing some new directions to consider. The goal is to present a set of recommendations to the NCCPD at the spring 2023 meeting. As we approach the presentation date there will be additional opportunities to gather feedback from stakeholders. Implementation of approved changes will take place in summer 2024.

Certification and Review of Faculty Development Activities

In October 2021 the NCCPD approved a new process for reviewing and approving faculty development activities. The goal of this process was to reduce the administrative burden of the certification process for these low-risk activities and to increase the number of Mainpro+ certified faculty development activities. New certification standards for faculty development activities have been drafted that include a revised quality criteria framework based on the CFPC's Fundamental Teaching Activities (FTA) Framework. A simplified attestation-based application has been drafted, which requires fewer documents for submission and review and primarily verifies that the Mainpro+ standards are

met in the process of the activity development. To qualify for this simplified process activities must meet the following definition of faculty development:

For Mainpro+ certification, faculty development is defined as a broad range of activities used to renew or assist faculty, supervisors, preceptors, field instructors, and clinical educators in their roles. These activities are designed to improve an individual's knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviours related to teaching, educational administration and leadership, and scholarship.*

The review of these activities will be conducted by university CPD offices that have been accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Continuing Professional Development (CACME) of the Associations of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC). Some of these universities have the capacity to review activities for two- and three-credit-per-hour certification. If a faculty development developer does not have a relationship with a CACME accredited CPD office they should contact the CFPC certification team at certplus@cfpc.ca for details on how we can support certification of their activity.

Reminder: Role of Medical Communication Companies in Certified CPD

As discussed in our previous issue, organizations that provide services for the HPI including but not limited to providing support for advisory boards, brand promotion, and marketing are ineligible to act as a provider for Mainpro+ certified CPD activities and may not submit applications to the CFPC or Chapters for Mainpro+ certification or ethical review. The NCCPD further determined that the CFPC would no longer

accept applications for Mainpro+ certification or ethical review from medical communication companies. Deadlines were set to implement these changes as follows:

- **November 1, 2022:** We will no longer accept applications for certification or ethical review from medical communication or hybrid medical communication/education companies that are working independently with scientific planning committees.
- **January 1, 2023:** We will no longer accept ethical review applications from medical communication or hybrid medical communication/education companies working with eligible providers on existing programs. Program providers should have transition plans in place.

Medical communication companies will begin to be marked ineligible in the CERT+ system based on these dates. If providers have questions, please contact the certification team at certplus@cfpc.ca.

CFPC Continuing Professional Development Program Award Winners

The CPD team wish to congratulate the 2022 winners of the CFPC CPD Program Award. The CFPC CPD Program Award recognizes a Mainpro+ certified educational program that has provided an exceptional learning experience to either practising or practice-eligible members of the CFPC. The award is presented to the individual or group responsible for the design, development, and implementation of the winning CPD program.

Supplemental Emergency Medicine Experience Program (SEME) – Yasmine Mawji, MD CM, CCFP (EM), Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto

* Scholarship is defined as those activities described in the CanMEDS-FM's Scholar Role. Adapted with permission from: Silver I, Leslie K. Comparing and Contrasting: Faculty Development and Continuing Professional Development. In: Rayburn WF, Turco MG, Davis DA, eds. *Continuing Professional Development in Medicine and Health Care: Better Education, Better Patient Outcomes*. Alphen aan de Rijn, NL: Wolters Kluwer; 2017.

UBC CPD Rural Coaching and Mentoring Program (CAMP) – Continuing Professional Development, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia

Congratulations again to these excellent programs. If you would like to nominate a program for the 2023 award period, visit the [Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine Awards of Recognition](#) website for more details.

Get Connected with Other CPD Professionals – LearningXChange

Looking for blogs, webinar announcements, discussions, and research specially curated for the CPD providers? Join the renewed CMA LearningXchange for CPD providers!

Each quarter will provide you with new content and opportunities to sign up for events to help you connect, reflect, and expand your thinking. Our first blog from Dr. Jeff Sisler is waiting for you.

Please help us build this unique community—join and engage through group discussions and polls.

Here is how you can join:

1. Go to the CMA home page <https://www.cma.ca>.
 - If you have a CMA.ca account use your Username and Password to log in*
- If you don't have a CMA.ca account click the "Create an account" link at the bottom of the box and input your details

You can contact the CMA Member Service Centre at **1-888-855-2555** Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (ET).

2. Once successfully logged in, click the "Communities" drop-down menu at the top of the page and select "All Communities"

3. Click the "Request to Join" button next to the LearningXchange Community in the list and type a brief message to let us know why you'd like access

Our Moderation team will be checking regularly to approve requests.

See you on the LearningXchange online Community of Practice!

Farewell to Dr. Jeff Sisler, Executive Director Professional Development and Practice Support



After five years in the role of Executive Director, Programs and Practice Support, Dr. Jeff Sisler retired on October 20, 2022. In his time at the CFPC Dr. Sisler oversaw many changes and innovations in CPD. During his tenure Dr. Sisler led the CPD department in the launching of Professional Learning Plans, improving our Mainpro+ Certification Standards through clearer definitions of eligible providers and better data capture, as well as helping us transition to a remote work force during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Sisler ensured that we were well-placed to continue supporting program providers and our members in the development of high quality CPD when it was needed the most.

He is leaving the CPD team able to tackle new challenges that come from the rapid change in CPD innovation that occurred during the pandemic. Dr. Sisler also led the Coalition for Physician Learning and Practice Improvement as it began its mission to envision a CPD system in Canada that is responsive to patient and community needs, that is based on evidence and practice data, and that is oriented toward meaningful improvements in physician practice and patient outcomes. He has been a mentor and friend to many of us in CPD in Canada. Please join us in wishing him well in his retirement.

CERT+ Tips and Tricks

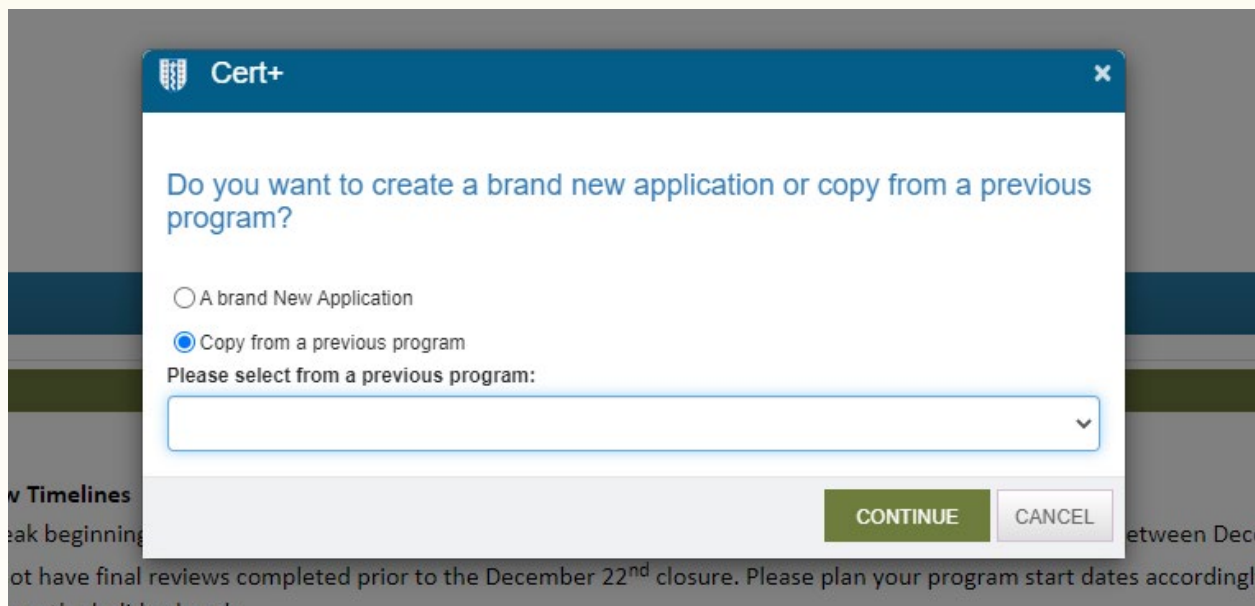
Appropriate member class for confirming scientific planning committee members

Programs seeking Mainpro+ certification require the involvement of active eligible members of the CFPC on the scientific planning committee. The scientific planning committee members who are listed as confirming members currently must hold one of the following member classes: Active, Senior, Sustaining Mainpro, Affiliate, and Life (Practising).

Please note that effective January 1, 2023, CFPC member classes will be changing. As of January 1, 2023, the only accepted member class for confirming scientific planning committee members will be the Practising class. When providers are forming scientific planning committees for the development of Mainpro+ certified CPD activities they should ensure that they have the required number of CFPC members with the appropriate membership class.

Copying a previous application

Are you re-submitting a program for certification following expiry? Do you have a new application that is like a previously approved program? You can save time in the application process by using the “Copy from previous program” option. When you click the green “Enter new application” button you will see the following the screen:



The screenshot shows a web application window titled "Cert+" with a close button in the top right corner. The main content area contains the question "Do you want to create a brand new application or copy from a previous program?". Below this question are two radio button options: "A brand New Application" and "Copy from a previous program". The "Copy from a previous program" option is selected. Below the radio buttons is a text prompt "Please select from a previous program:" followed by a white drop-down menu with a downward arrow. At the bottom right of the dialog box are two buttons: a green "CONTINUE" button and a grey "CANCEL" button. The background of the page is partially visible, showing text about timelines and program start dates.

If you select “Copy from a previous program” you will be presented with a drop-down list of available options. Select the program you wish to copy and click “Continue.” You will be taken to a new screen with a pre-populated application based on responses from the copied program. Please note that you can update any of the pre-populated content. You should ensure that you update the date, and title if required. Not all information copies from one application to the next as we do expect that programs will be updated based on evaluation feedback and changes in evidence.

Save the Date

CPD in Focus Live

English – Monday, January 16, 2023
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (ET)

French – Monday, January 23, 2023
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (ET)

These live webinars will explore the contents of the CPD in Focus newsletter in depth and allow program providers to pose questions and seek clarifications. Webinar attendees are invited to submit questions or cases for consideration.

English speakers can send their questions or cases for consideration to this survey <https://survey.alchemer-ca.com/s3/50163281/CPD-in-Focus-LIVE-English-January-2023>. French speakers can submit

to this survey <https://survey.alchemer-ca.com/s3/50163278/CPD-in-Focus-LIVE-French>.

Cases and questions will be incorporated into the webinar content based on time available and relevance to most of the target audience. Cases must be submitted by December 31, 2022, for consideration.

Register for the English webinar at https://cfpc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ic5cqYvpRvWxHR-mW5ycug.

Register for the French webinar at https://cfpc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vwcFiB3GQ-O2PepnW78e_w.

The webinars will be recorded for those unable to attend live. You must be registered to receive the recording.

What We Are Reading: A CPD bibliography

Below are scholarly literature titles and other CPD-related articles that have recently come to our attention. These publications have attracted our interest because they address recent trends in CPD, support the principles of Mainpro+ Certification Standards, and/or introduce unique concepts in adult learning. We hope you find this information helpful as you develop CPD activities.

Agic B, Fruitman H, Maharaj A, Taylor J, Ashraf A, Henderson J, et al. Advancing Curriculum Development and Design in Health Professions Education: A Health Equity and Inclusion Framework for Education Programs. *J Contin Educ Health Prof.* August 9, 2022.

Bridgwood B, Sayers R, Charlton R. Continuing professional development preferences post Covid-19. *Educ Prim Care.* 2022;33(5):313-314

Okonski R, Toy S, Wolpaw J. Podcasting as a Learning Tool in Medical Education: Prior to and During the Pandemic Period. *Balkan Med J.* 2022;39(5):334-339.

Zheng B, Dallaghan GB. A Twitter-facilitated professional learning community: online participation, connectedness, and satisfaction. *BMC Med Educ.* 2022;22(1):577.

Need more information?

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Certification team phone line: 1-866-242-5885