CPD in Focus

Spring 2024

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Coming Soon to CERT+

Revised Mainpro+ Certification Standards and new CERT+ platform

The work to revise the Mainpro+® Standards initiated by the National Committee on Continuing Professional Development (NCCPD) draws near to completion. Under the guidance of the Mainpro+ Standards Working Group (MSWG) and the Certification Standards Working Group (CSWG), the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) team has made significant progress on the revisions to our standards and CPD platforms (Mainpro+ and CERT+). The changes to the standards aim to align them more closely with other Canadian CPD standard-setting organizations. The revisions will also emphasize increasing awareness and consideration of health equity, cultural safety, diversity,

and inclusion in the CPD activities that Canadian family physicians participate in.

The CFPC is committed to meeting the needs of our members and CPD provider organizations. For this reason, we set out to update our two flagship platforms, Mainpro+ and CERT+. The updates will create an improved member experience through technological alignment with our membership portal. The revised Mainpro+ platform will be more member-focused and break down barriers to the credit reporting process. The revised CERT+ platform will simplify certain aspects of the application process and improve the experience of providers who use the platform.

The release date for these revisions is December 16, 2024. The CERT+ platform is expected to have a blackout period starting in November 2024. To allow for the transition, we encourage all Mainpro+ and CERT+ users to review the communications that will be distributed over the coming year via emails, webinars, videos, and website updates.

This issue of CPD In Focus covers key project updates.

Discontinuing Two- and Three-Credits-Per-Hour Programs

All activities certified for Mainpro+ credit will be at the one-credit-per-hour level once the new Certification Standards are launched. Programs seeking two- and three-credit-per-hour certification will be accepted until the current CERT+ platform is shut down in November 2024. Applications reviewed and approved by the cut-off will be migrated into the new system with their credit values intact. Two- and three-credit-per-hour activities migrated into the new system will have an expiry date of December

31, 2025, at the latest. Programs that have an expiry date prior to December 31, 2025, will retain their original expiry date. On January 1, 2026, all activities in CERT+ will be at the one-credit-per-hour level. It is important to be mindful of this date when submitting applications for two- and three-credit-per-hour activities, as it is possible that your program will not receive its full certification period once migrated to the new platform.

For example: A program with a start date of July 1, 2024, is approved with a 24-month certification period. Once migrated to the new platform, this program will receive a new expiry date of December 31, 2025, losing six months of its certification period. Alternatively, a program that was approved on July 1, 2023, with a 24-month certification period will still have an expiry date of July 1, 2025, when migrated to the new platform as it falls before the December 31, 2025, cut-off date. Sessions delivered as two- and three-credit-per-hour activities after December 31, 2025, will not be recognized.

Addition of Enhanced Activities

Providers who wish to create opportunities for participants to earn additional optional credits may do so by including select, credit category dependent, activities with their CPD activity. These activities must be developed in advance and approved by the scientific planning committee (SPC). Submitters seeking enhanced activity approval must submit the additional activities for review with the main learning activity and describe how the additional activities serve the program learning objectives. An estimate of the additional time required to complete the enhanced activities must be included to validate additional optional credit allocation. Providers are responsible for tracking participation related to the enhanced activities that they create, and retain those attendance records for six years (as is the case with the main learning activity).

Examples of eligible enhanced activities by credit category are outlined below.

Certified Activities

- A needs assessment activity that can be completed by program participants that incorporates data from their practice

- Practice tools and resources with follow-up about impact on practice to increase practice relevance and to reinforce learning post-program

- An exercise that includes formal reflection on application of learning to practice over a realistic period to assess practice change

- An objective measurement of change in performance/competence/skill (knowledge test, commitment to change with follow-up, and patient outcome measurement)

Certified Assessment Activities

- Formal reflection on the application of changes to practice because of the assessment activity

- Completion and implementation of a practice improvement plan, with follow-up after a realistic period

- Completion of a knowledge test after a realistic period

These enhanced activities are optional components that providers can create to give participants the opportunity to dive deeper into the learning activity.

Introduction of a Formal Audit Process

All providers of Mainpro+ certified activities must agree to submit to an activity audit upon request by the CFPC CPD department. Audits may be in the form of a live audit or a post-activity audit, at the discretion of the CFPC CPD team.

Activities can be flagged for audit during the application review process, by an administrator or physician reviewer, or upon receipt of information/feedback from a source aware of a potential violation. When delivering a Mainpro+ certified activity, if a CPD provider (individual and/or company) or speaker acting on behalf of a CPD provider is found to be in violation of the CFPC's standards for Mainpro+ certification, the provider will be subject to investigation.

Following is information about both audit processes, live and post-activity.

Live activity audit process

Process – Once an activity is selected for a live activity audit, the CFPC CPD team will assign auditors to attend and assess a live occurrence of the CPD activity. This can include live in-person meetings and live virtual meetings. The audit team may include CFPC physician reviewers and/or CFPC CPD administrators.

Documentation – The most current versions of the program documentation included on the CFPC's CERT+ platform will be used to review the delivery of the program.
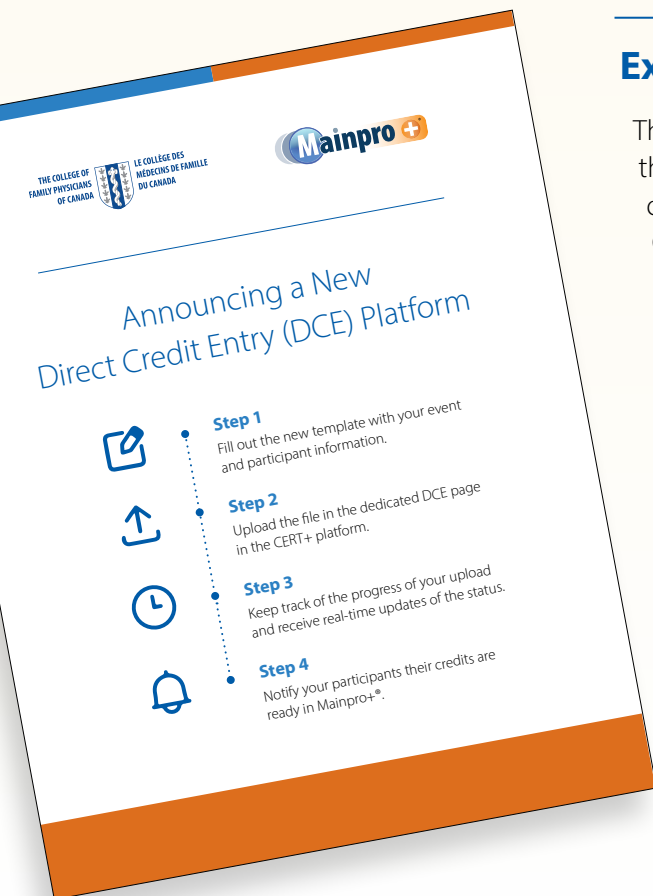
Post-activity audit process

Process – Once an activity is selected for a post-activity audit, the provider organization will receive a notice that their activity is to be audited. This can include any activity submitted to the CFPC, national and provincial, within the past six years. The audit team may include CFPC physician reviewers and/or CFPC CPD administrators.

Documentation – The provider organization undergoing the audit will be required to submit the following documentation for review:

- All promotional materials related to the activity
- Record of SPC meeting minutes
- Attendance list for the activity
- Evaluation results
- Copies of the conflict-of-interest disclosures made to the audience
- Copies of the material delivered and/or recordings of the activity (if applicable/available)
- Copies of any sponsor acknowledgement/promotion that occurred during the activity (if applicable)
- Copies of speaker/presenter communications
- Copy of letters of participation issued to participants
- Other material deemed relevant by the CFPC

The audit results will be shared with the provider organization once the audit is completed and the CFPC CPD team has determined the compliance status. CPD providers will be determined to be compliant, partially complaint, or non-compliant with the Mainpro+ certification standards for the activity in question.

Announcing a New Direct Credit Entry (DCE) Platform

Step 1
Fill out the new template with your event and participant information.

Step 2
Upload the file in the dedicated DCE page in the CERT+ platform.

Step 3
Keep track of the progress of your upload and receive real-time updates of the status.

Step 4
Notify your participants their credits are ready in Mainpro+®.

Expansion of the Direct Credit Entry (DCE) Process

The CFPC has updated its Direct Credit Entry (DCE) platform and expanded the program to all provider organizations. The DCE program allows provider organizations to report credits for Mainpro+ certified activities on behalf of CFPC member participants. The web-based dashboard will upload credits automatically, which means participants will get their credits faster. It also offers a more personalized experience for providers, where you can view your history and manage your account. It offers more access to the DCE process, helps shorten lead times, and gives you more visibility into the process every step of the way.

DCE Training Video: https://youtu.be/h1li2ijHStw

To book a training session or if you have any questions about these changes, please reach out to **dce@cpfc.ca**.

2023 CFPC Continuing Professional Development Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2023 award winners!

ECHO Ontario Chronic Pain and Opioid Stewardship Program

Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (TRI) and University Health Network (UHN)

ECHO is an interactive online medical education program, connecting health care providers with an interprofessional specialist team to advance learning and enhance clinical skills.

Weekly online sessions include an overview of best practices and discussions of real patient cases, with expert diagnostic and treatment suggestions. Whether you present a case, or just listen, you'll learn from multiple perspectives and gain up-to-date knowledge.

https://uhn.echoontario.ca

COVID-19 Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians

Ontario College Of Family Physicians (OCFP) and Department of Family and Community Medicine (DFCM) at the University of Toronto

The COVID-19 Community of Practice allows family physicians from across Ontario to connect and learn from each other during this challenging time.

Every two to three weeks, hear updates from experts about the latest COVID-19 evidence and policy. Connect with fellow family physicians on practical ways to innovate and address COVID-19 challenges on the ground.

https://dfcm.utoronto.ca/covid-19-community-practice

A Fond Farewell to Deborah Blois

Certification Coordinator, CPD

It is with mixed emotions that we announce a significant milestone within our CFPC community. After over 30 years of dedicated service, Deborah Blois, a cherished member of our team, has decided to retire effective March 28, 2024.

Being one of the longest-serving employees at the College, Deborah has been a long-time and active contributor to the support that the organization provides to our valued members. She has been a pillar within the CPD community and contributed to the advancement of CPD in Canada.

Deborah's wealth of knowledge and expertise has made her a valuable resource to our CPD providers and colleagues alike. Her willingness to offer assistance and support exemplifies her collaborative spirit and commitment to fostering a culture of teamwork.

Deborah has been a key player for the NCCPD, providing administrative support to the committee. She has been a valued friend and colleague to so many of us in CPD in Canada. Please join us in congratulating her and wishing her the very best on a well-deserved retirement.

Save the Dates

15th National Accreditation Conference

When: October 21–22, 2024

Where: Ottawa, Ontario

Who: Anyone working in CPD is encouraged to attend, including CFPC Chapters, universities, national societies, as well as CME companies.

If you are interested in being alerted once registration opens, please email **nac@royalcollege.ca** and let them know.

CPD In Focus Webinar

When: June 10, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. (ET) (English);
June 12 at 3:00 p.m. (ET) (French)

Where: Zoom

Who: All CPD providers are invited to learn more about the upcoming changes to the Mainpro+ Standards and CERT+, including the blackout period in late 2024, fee structure, audits, and provider applications.

Register today: English webinar | French Webinar

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, Harris H, Gagnon L, Taylor J, et al. *Health Equity and Inclusion Framework for Education and Training Version 2.0.* Toronto, ON: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; 2023. Accessed February 12, 2024. https://www.camh.ca/-/media/education-files/camh-health-equity-inclusion-education-training2023-pdf.pdf

Menear RA, Hernandez KN, Handley L, Lora AA, Nisly SA. Healthcare Disparities: Encouraging Change Through Continuing Professional Development. *J CME*. 2023;12(1):2269075. Accessed February 12, 2024. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/28338073.2023.2269075

McKay J, Needham E, Walsh W. Including Patient Voices in Continuing Medical Education: One Provider's Experience. *J CME*. 2023;12(1):2275504. Accessed February 12, 2024. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/28338073.2023.2275504

Contact Us

Need more information?
Email: **certplus@cfpc.ca**
Certification team phone line: **1-866-242-5885**