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Please distribute this Newsletter to anyone in your organization who may be interested in the content.

Introducing the Self-Approval Newsletter

This is the inaugural issue of the Self-Approval Newsletter, a new communication tool aimed at ensuring regular contact between the Royal College CPD Accreditation Unit and Chairs of rounds, journal clubs and small groups. This newsletter will be published 4 times per year to highlight CPD accreditation standards and best practices for these self-approved group learning activities. The newsletter has been implemented upon the recommendation of the Working Group for the Assessment of Self-approved group learning activities (see the next section).

Royal college staff are available to provide support and resources to assist you through the self-approval process and to help ensure accredited activities adhere to the Royal College CPD accreditation standards. Similarly, a number of resources are available in the Self-Approval Toolkit on the Royal College website.

For support, email rounds@royalcollege.ca.

Rounds, Journal Clubs & Small Groups at a Glance

Rounds, journal clubs and small group learning activities provide specialists with opportunities to learn with their peers, compare their current knowledge and approach to practice, and become aware of new evidence relevant to their practice. Regularly sequenced group activities, as a result, can lead to changes in professional practice. As such, these activities are an extremely important component of the Royal College’s Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program.

The MOC Program participation data indicates that in 2013, 55% of MOC Program participants recorded credits in accredited rounds, 26% recorded credits in small group activities and 21% recorded credits in accredited journal clubs.

The Chairs and planning committees of accredited rounds, journal clubs and small groups are vital participants in Fellows’ lifelong learning strategies and we thank you for your dedication and belief in the Royal College CPD accreditation standards and process.
Results of the Rounds Assessment

In December 2011, the Royal College assembled a working group to assess the self-approval process for group learning activities (including rounds, journal clubs and small group learning). The working group was tasked with assessing current adherence levels to the administrative, educational and ethical standards established for these activities.

The assessment took place over 2013 and the findings suggest that some self-approved rounds programs are either not aware of or do not adhere to all of the Royal College’s CPD accreditation standards for self-approved activities. The discrepancies in adherence span across administrative, educational and ethical standards. However, the highest rates of non-compliance occur in relation to administrative and ethical standards. The Executive Summary of the working group findings is attached.

To address gaps in knowledge highlighted by the assessment, the Royal College CPD Unit has committed to improving communications practices for rounds, journal clubs and small group learning activities as described below.

Access a New Suite of Self-Approval Tools

The Royal College CPD Accreditation Unit is pleased to announce the launch of several new tools and resources which are aimed at improving the self-approval process and facilitating management of rounds, journal clubs and small group learning activities by planning committees and their Chairs. These tools include:

- Frequently asked questions (FAQ) for rounds, journal clubs and small groups
- Guides to CPD Accreditation Standards for rounds, journal clubs and small groups
- Self-Approval Newsletter
- A new and improved Self-Approval Checklist & Form
- A revamped web presence

The first draft: A step towards evolving the CanMEDS Framework

The first draft of the CanMEDS Physician Competency Framework has been released. Visit the CanMEDS 2015 website to learn more and provide your feedback.

Aligning medical education with the realities of modern practice

To help ensure physicians have the knowledge and skills they need at each stage of their career, the Royal College has launched a multi-year, change initiative called Competence by Design (CBD).

CBD will implement a competency-based approach to medical education and practice – enhancing and promoting continuous learning and assessment from residency to retirement. To learn more about this initiative, read the CBD information sheet or email cbd@royalcollege.ca.
Frequently Asked Questions

When must I submit a self-approval form? Do I have to re-accredit my activity each year?

A self-approval form must be completed and submitted to the Royal College:

1. When you wish to have a new rounds program, journal club or small group accredited or
2. When the Chair of a planning committee, contact information, or activity title changes

Once the rounds, journal club or small group has been accredited, the accreditation does not expire and you do not have to re-accredit the program each year. **Stay Tuned!** This is pending review and may change in the future.

How many credits can participants claim for attending an accredited rounds, journal club or small group learning activity?

Under section 1 of the Royal College MOC Program, participants may claim one credit per hour for attending an accredited rounds, journal club or small group learning activity.

Does the Chair of the planning committee have to provide a certificate of attendance after each session?

No. Certificates of attendance must be provided at least annually (usually at the end of each calendar year so that participants may record their credits before the January 31 reporting deadline). Organizers may choose to provide participants with a certificate after each session but this is not a requirement of the Royal College.

What information should be included on the certificate of attendance?

All participants must be provided a certificate/letter of participation which includes the following elements:

1. Title of the rounds, journal club or small group (please use exact title as was submitted to the Royal College on the self-approval form)
2. Name of the organizing hospital and department
3. Name of the Chair of the planning committee of the activity
4. Date range of the activity
5. Location of the activity (live/web-based)
6. Number of hours attended (yearly)
7. The accreditation statement (see Accreditation Statement below)

“The [insert exact title of rounds, journal club, or small group as indicated on self-approval form] is a self-approved group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.”

Review the MOC Program Evaluation Results

The Royal College has released its Phase II Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program Evaluation Report. This report provides an analysis of more than 5,000 Fellows’ views on the MOC Program and its effect on lifelong learning and practice improvements. The findings suggest we have improved in some areas while work remains in others.

Rest assured, we’re listening. This report will help guide the Royal College’s efforts to revise and enhance the MOC Program where possible, as well as shape a broader re-envisioning of our strategies and philosophies.

To read the full report, [click here to visit the Royal College website](#).