How to Prepare Educational Objectives for CME that encompass changes in competence or performance or patient care

Learning Objective Format

Clearly stated learning objectives provide a focus for planning; help prospective registrants decide whether or not to attend a session, and help planners and learners evaluate the educational experience.

♦ Learning objectives should be written from the participant's perspective and describe what they should be able to do by the end of the session.

♦ Learning objectives should be specific, measurable and achievable. They may cover knowledge and competence or performance or patient care, but should not be limited to knowledge.

♦ Use action verbs, as appropriate for behavioral objectives, and avoid the use of “know” or “understand.”

Your list of objectives will be prefaced by the following phrase:

At the end of this session, participants should be able to………

Sample Objectives:

• Develop a treatment plan for a newly diagnosed hypertensive patient with prediabetes.
• Diagnose the etiology of back pain.
• Select the appropriate antibiotic for community acquired pneumonia.
• Counsel patients for weight loss.
• Apply a practical approach to helping patients stop smoking (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, and Arrange).
• Perform a thorough breast exam.
• Appropriately manage patients with acute decompensated heart failure
• Evaluate a patient with symptoms of dizziness.
• Distinguish between cognitive impairment and depression.
• Identify patients who would benefit from gastrointestinal decontamination therapy
• Order the appropriate imaging study.