

Professional Practice Gap Guidelines

The goal is to incorporate into CME activities the learning necessary to fill the professional practice gaps of the learners. Practice gaps can be identified using several methods. These include research, medical publication articles, surveys or internal outcomes studies. It is important to include practice gaps for the target audience of the activity. This can include quality and safety data from your institution or local institutions and expert medical opinion.

After identifying the gaps between current practice and/or outcomes and desirable and/or achievable practice or outcomes, the next step is to design and provide learning activities to fill these gaps. The final process is to evaluate the impact the program has had on improving professional practice.

There are six basic components to providing compliant CME programs regarding professional practice gaps. They are:

1. Identify professional practice gaps.
2. Identify target audience affected by the practice gaps.
3. Write educational objectives that will close the practice gaps and improve patient outcomes.
4. Design educational intervention (format of learning activity).
5. Implement activity.
6. Evaluate the impact the program has had or may have on improving patient outcomes.