

MAG recruiting physicians for CME accreditation role

The Medical Association of Georgia is recruiting physicians to serve as surveyors for its continuing medical education (CME) accreditation program in Georgia.

MAG receives its authority to accredit intrastate providers of CME through its recognition by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). These accredited organizations have the authority to offer physicians AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ which meet Georgia license renewal requirements.

“The ACCME has some very precise guidelines that we must follow when it comes to the accreditation process,” says MAG Manager of Accreditation Andrew Baumann. “When organizations apply for accreditation, they must be surveyed by at least one physician who has been trained and appointed by MAG’s Continuing Medical Education Committee.”

Baumann accompanies the physician surveyors on all site visits. Once the survey is complete, he collaborates with the physician surveyor to prepare a summary report that is submitted to MAG’s CME Committee – which is chaired by Hillary Newland, M.D., – for consideration.

Baumann explains that the same basic process applies when an organization’s term of accreditation expires in that they must go through a survey to be reaccredited.

“MAG’s CME Committee members actually used to do the surveys themselves, but that became impractical as the number of accredited organizations approached 60,” Baumann says. “That was the point MAG decided to appoint and train a group of survey specialists.”

Baumann says the surveyors are paid an honorarium of \$500 per survey/report, plus travel expenses to and from the survey site – noting that the honoraria and expenses are billed to the organization that’s being surveyed as a part of the expense of accreditation.

Baumann notes that the total number of site visits averages 10 to 15 per year.

Of the physician surveyors, Baumann says...

- They must be a MAG member
- Retired physicians are given preference

- Physicians who have previous experience as a member of a CME committee are given preference

“Doing the surveys in person and on-site results in a great deal of credibility within the medical community,” Baumann concludes.

Physicians who are interested in serving as a CME surveyor should contact Baumann at 678.303.9286 or abaumann@mag.org.