

The Role of CME in Addressing Health Disparities

Continuing Medical Education (CME) helps to ensure that health care providers are actively working to address systemic inequities by developing a better sense of responsibility to act when patients face barriers to diversity, equity, and inclusion (EDI), teaching about biases, empathy, and advocacy in health care, and fostering an inclusive work environment for all professionals in the space.



Our Value in Diversity and Inclusion

CME organizations have a responsibility to ensure that healthcare professionals have access to learning and skill development activities that are trustworthy and are based on best practices and high-quality evidence. EDI education is a key aspect of a modern approach to health care training. The CME Coalition encourages its members and other CME providers to always endeavor to:

- Follow intent & language set in EDI policies;
- Draft standards that improve quality of care;
- Draft standards that are achievable by all CME programs;
- Collaborate with provider organizations to support implementation; and
- Secure and implement feedback from stakeholders, including patients, families, and caregivers.



Provider Responsibilities and Actions

By implementing strategies that address systemic inequities, CME can support health care providers with a better understanding of their responsibility to provide training surrounding biases, empathy, and advocacy. Concrete ways that accredited providers can address EDI include:

- Focusing continuing education topics and content on inequity and racism that exacerbate health disparities, including conscious and unconscious biases;
- Refuting assumptions about certain groups and reflecting EDI in planners and faculty for continuing education; and
- Ensuring that EDI variables are considered and addressed in continuing education.

