

CLARIFICATION FROM SMC ON CME QUALIFYING PERIOD AND THE RENEWAL OF PRACTISING CERTIFICATES

Dear Colleague,

We understand that some of us are unsure of how the CME qualifying period relates to the renewal of the practising certificates in that some of us were of the impression that it is not necessary to accumulate CME points in 2003.

We reproduce below the relevant portions of the letter of clarification from SMC, ref. SMC 15.7, dated 28 January 2003 for your information.

a. Renewal of Practising Certificates in 2003

A large majority of fully and conditionally registered doctors in Singapore hold a 2-year practising certificate (PC) that will expire on 31 Dec 2003. Although compulsory continuing medical education (CME) has been implemented with effect from 1 Jan 2003, CME credit records for the period 2001 to 2002 would not be taken into consideration for renewals of PCs in 2003 and 2004. This means that doctors whose PCs will expire on 31 Dec 2003 would be granted an "automatic" PC renewal for the period 1 Jan 2004 to 31 Dec 2005.

b. Renewal of Practising Certificates in 2005

The qualifying period for a doctor's 2-year PC that next expires on 31 Dec 2005 (after the renewal on 31 Dec 2003) would be from 1 Jan 2003 to 31 Dec 2004, i.e. the preceding 2 years. Before the doctor's PC can be renewed on 31 Dec 2005 for a further 2 years until 31 Dec 2007, he would need to have acquired a minimum of 50 CME points within the CME qualifying period, of which 20% (i.e. 10 points) shall be core points. This means that the doctor would need to accumulate CME points from 2003 onwards if he is to meet the CME requirements for his qualifying period.

Similarly, the SMC will not consider CME records for doctors whose 2-year PCs are expiring anytime in 2004 with the CME qualifying period from 1 Jan 2002 to 31 Dec 2003. However, doctors whose PCs will expire in 2006 (after renewal in 2004) would need to obtain the requisite CME points for their qualifying period from 1 Jan 2004 to 31 Dec 2005.

If you have any queries concerning the CME, please contact the SMC CME Secretariat at: 6372 3060.

DR THAM TAT YEAN
Honorary Secretary
43rd SMA Council

(Note: The information in this Announcement is extracted from a letter from SMC, ref. SMC 15.7, dated 28 January 2003. This Announcement is reproduced with the consent of the Singapore Medical Council.)