CME for YOU: Accreditation with Commendation

In prior issues of OCPD FREE, we shared Carilion Clinic’s Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office’s goal of improving the health of the communities we serve by educating physicians and other health professionals in new areas of medical knowledge and clinical skills. We strive to continue to meet this goal with innovative approaches that help meet the various and evolving needs while adhering to the criteria established by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and The Medical Society of Virginia (MSV).

Carilion Clinic’s CME Program was surveyed March 27, 2019 by MSV’s Intrastate Accreditation Program (IAP) for reaccreditation. The IAP unanimously approved the Carilion Clinic’s CME Program for six years Accreditation with Commendation (the highest possible approval).

ACCME states, “Receiving commendation recognizes the achievements of organizations that advance interprofessional collaborative practice, address public health priorities, create behavioral change, show leadership, leverage educational technology, and demonstrate the impact of education on healthcare professionals and patients.” Accreditation with Commendation assures the medical community and the public that Carilion Clinic’s CME Program provides physicians with relevant, effective, practice-based continuing medical education that supports health care quality improvement.

Commendation is not easy to accomplish. The MSV employs a rigorous, multilevel process for evaluating institutions’ continuing medical education programs according to the high accreditation standards adopted by all seven, ACCME member organizations. Without the support of Administration, Physicians Champions, and the Educational Partners working in collaboration and cooperation with the CME Program this status may not have been achieved. Now, we have the opportunity to use the next six years to implement best practices in pedagogy, engagement, evaluation, change management, and focusing on generating meaningful outcomes.

The ACCME/MSV have adopted new commendation criteria focusing on generating meaningful outcomes. The ACCME states, “Receiving commendation recognizes the achievements of organizations that advance interprofessional collaborative practice, address public health priorities, create behavioral change, show leadership, leverage educational technology, and demonstrate the impact of education on healthcare professionals and patients.” Accreditation with Commendation assures the medical community and the public that Carilion Clinic’s CME Program provides physicians with relevant, effective, practice-based continuing medical education that supports health care quality improvement.

The new commendation criteria offers the opportunity to share commendable practices in our institution that the ACCME/MSV systems should recognize and value. Moving forward under the new commendation criteria, the goal of Carilion Clinic’s CME Program is to design and implement innovation and flexibility (e.g. formats, faculty, and tele-casting) in CME activities certified for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ while continuing to ensure that activities meet accreditation standards and are independent of commercial influence. The new commendation criteria explores engaging patients/public, students of health professions, research, and other topics into CME activities. Through participation in accredited CME, clinicians and learners drive improvement in their practice and optimize the care, health, and wellness in their patients and the communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions and/or concerns related to CME.

-Linda Wells