
MEMO

Date:	January 24, 2017
To:	All Physicians in Northern B.C.
From:	Northern Continuing Medical Education (NCME), UBC Continuing Practice Development (UBC CPD) and NH Physician Quality Improvement
Re:	Future of Continuing Medical Education in Northern BC

Northern Continuing Medical Education (NCME)

In British Columbia, the Joint Standing Committee will be looking at ways to improve access to Continuing Medical Education (CME), especially for our rural physicians. A number of provincial factors will impact the future of Northern Continuing Medical Education (NCME), including potential changes to individual and community funding. In anticipation of a changing provincial CME model, it was determined that the current support provided by our Education Department would soon be unsustainable. March 31, 2017 has been set as the date to end the NCME department.

It is anticipated that the JSC consultation and discussion process can take up to 18 months to reach consensus. Northern Health and our various partners are committed to ensure that there are no gaps in NCME service to the physicians in our region. Northern Health Medical Advisory Committee has agreed to fund temporary resources until an improved provincial model is developed. Medical Affairs will be assuming responsibility for Continuing Medical Education through this time of transition. Northern Health's Physician Quality Improvement department will provide resources and support for CME to ensure there will be no gap in service.

❖ *CME services will continue to be provided by Northern Health after April 1, 2017*

Consultation: Future of CME

Northern Health will work with various stakeholders to support a consultative process with physician groups (including Divisions, Medical Staff Associations, and others) to better understand the education needs for Northern B.C. We are dedicated to pulling together the various physician voices across the region and presenting ideas to inform the provincial model. There are currently community CME funds that sit with the individual communities across the region that continue to be unspent. If there is consensus in the North on an alternative way to use and manage the community reverted CME funds to improve CME for physicians in the North, then we can present these options to the Joint Standing Committee

on Rural Issues and ask for exemption to implement an alternative model to manage the reverted community fund before a provincial process is finalized.

The Rural Coordinating Center of BC, along with UBC Continuing Practice Development and Northern Health have already started consultations in various communities over the past year. The Rural Coordinating Center, Northern Health and partners will support a further consultative process to best shape the future of CME for Northern B.C. If you are interested in participating in a focus group with Divisions and Medical Staff Association representatives, as well as physician community representatives for those not covered by a Division or MSA, please email lcarty@rccbc.ca

Rounds Accreditation

- ❖ *Effective immediately, please apply directly to either the BC College of Family Physicians or UBC Continuing Professional Development (UBC CPD) for credits for your hospital/location for all programs including rounds.*
- ❖ *For help with Rounds applications or any other accreditation questions, contact JoAnna Cassie Joanna.c@ubc.ca 604-875-4111 (69135) or the UBC CPD website accreditation application page <http://ubccpd.ca/accreditation>*
- ❖ *CME services will continue to be provided by Northern Health staff who can still help with coordinating your local planning committee, identifying hospital/location learning needs, finding speakers and filling out paper work.*
 - *Before March 31, 2017 contact Elizabeth.Webber@northernhealth.ca*
 - *After April 1, 2017 contact Candice.Manahan@northernhealth.ca*