



Education Activities

INTRODUCTION

Continuing professional development (CPD) programs reflect the value of lifelong learning throughout a surgeon's career, recognising that continued improvement in operative skills and non-operative skills are necessary to achieve improved patient care and outcomes.

Education activities comprise a significant weighting of the continuing professional development criteria as set out by RACS and the medical regulators.

DEFINITION

In the context of the RACS CPD program, education activities include any activity that facilitates the maintenance or improvement of the knowledge and skills required to work competently as a surgeon, with the aim of improving patient care and outcomes. Activities should encompass operative and non-operative areas of knowledge and be aligned to the RACS ten surgical competencies.

MINIMUM STANDARD

- All surgeons must complete 40 hours of education activities per CPD period, over 2 or more different activities.
- At least 50% of the education activities must be aligned to the surgeon's Area of Practice (scope of practice).

TYPES OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Education activities may present in many formats, including structured activities, unstructured (informal) learning opportunities and blended learning models. Each surgeon will have preferred styles of learning and RACS encourages participation across multiple learning environments including dedicated learning events as well as on-the-job and workplace learning.

Structured learning

Structured activities have clear learning objectives, a program of activity and an evaluation process and include a large variety of activities (i.e. conferences, workshops or eLearning modules).

Unstructured learning

Unstructured, or informal learning activities are more likely to be observational, on-the-job and often small scale or peer-based activities.

Blended learning

Blended learning models include face-to-face learning as well as online learning and are an increasingly prevalent model of CPD. This can include completing online learning modules or readings prior to face-to-face events such as workshops or lectures.

All formats of education activities are valuable, and surgeons are encouraged to actively participate across all forms of learning activities for their CPD. Surgeons should self-reflect on completion of the activity, evaluating how the activity will improve their patient care and patient outcomes.

Examples of education activities recognised in the RACS CPD Program can be found in Appendix 1 or in the CPD Guide.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- RACS CPD Guide
- RACS CPD Participation and Compliance Regulation
- [RACS Surgical Competence and Performance Guide](#)
- [Medical Board of Australia: Registration Standard \(CPD\)](#)
- [Medical Board of Australia: Good Medical Practice](#)
- [Medical Council of New Zealand: Good Medical Practice](#)
- [Medical Council of New Zealand: Professional Development](#)

Appendix 1: Examples of Education Activities recognised in the RACS CPD Program

- Supervision of surgical trainees
- Participation in ASERNIP-S review, a clinical trial or organised clinical research
- Acting as a referee for a journal article
- Publication of a surgical / medical book
- Publication in a refereed journal / chapter in surgical/medical book
- Hospital clinical meeting
- Presentation to surgical / medical peers at a scientific meeting
- Structured and approved small group learning e.g. Journal Club
- Participation in volunteer services
- Surgical Meetings including M&M, Multidisciplinary etc
- Attendance at RACS scientific conference
- Attendance at RACS courses / workshops
- Operate with Respect training module
- Approved RACS / society activity / workshop
- Attendance at Specialty Society courses / workshop
- Attendance at Specialty Association or Society scientific meeting
- Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety
- Development of educational material
- eLearning
- Journal reading / researching clinical information / informal discussions
- Structured Journal Reading with MCQ
- Other courses / workshops that focus on technical /non-technical competencies
- Other approved interactive surgical or clinical workshops
- Overseas meetings with CPD recognised national body
- Participation in other courses at tertiary institutions or another recognised provider
- Presentation to other health professional's community groups
- Specialty group meetings including RACS Council/board committee meetings
- Teaching on courses / workshops
- Teaching on RACS courses / workshops
- Teaching on specialty societies courses / workshops
- Teaching to trainees / undergraduates