



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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To all registered medical practitioners

FULFILLING CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) REQUIREMENTS VIA ONLINE PLATFORMS

Following the alert level from DORSCON Yellow to Orange on 7 Feb 2020 for the current COVID-19 outbreak, event organisers have been advised to cancel or defer non-essential large-scale events. Movement of healthcare staff has also been restricted in public and private sector institutions and various healthcare settings.

2. The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) noted that some doctors were anxious as to whether they could fulfil all their CME requirements with the cancellation or deferment of CME events e.g. those under Cat 1B and Cat 1C. SMC would like to inform our medical practitioners that they can accumulate CME points entirely online and would like to share how this can be done.

3. Currently, doctors may accumulate CME points by participating in the following activities in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Categories of CME

Category	Description	Cap of CME points for the qualifying period
Cat 1A	Pre-established programmes held in restructured hospitals, institutions	No cap
Cat 1B	Local events (e.g. workshops, scientific meetings, conferences)	No cap
Cat 1C	Overseas events (e.g. workshops, scientific meetings, conferences)	No cap
Cat 2	Publications / Editorial Work / Presentation of Original paper or poster	40
Cat 3A	Self-study (e.g. reading of refereed journals listed in PubMed)	10
Cat 3B	Accredited distance-learning programmes with verifiable self-assessment	36

4. From Table 1 above, up to 46 of the 50 points required can be obtained by reading refereed medical journals and distance-learning programmes. Refereed **local** journals online include the Singapore Medical Journal, the Annals of the Academy of Medicine Singapore and The Singapore Family Physician. Within the online platforms of these local publications are many excellent e-learning programmes, online quizzes and distance learning programmes. Many international journals also have online learning resources e.g. some of the latest studies on COVID-19 are freely available on the online editions of the New England Journal of Medicine and Lancet. Medscape is another well-known free CME online platform. Core points can be obtained through these as well as Specialist and Family Medicine refereed journals.

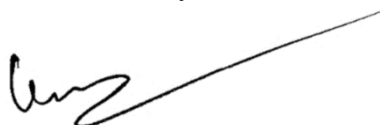
5. SMC has liaised with the Academy of Medicine Singapore (AMS), College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) and Singapore Medical Association (SMA) and would like to share their initiatives to conduct e-learning CME¹ using internet and smartphone video conferencing applications. Such Webinars allow active interaction between speakers, attendees and facilitator. AMS and CFPS will submit the electronic attendance for all participating doctors to SMC. These Webinars by the AMS and CFPS will qualify as Cat 1B CME. SMA has online reading with quizzes which qualify for Cat 3B CME. Thus all 50 points can be obtained entirely online. This is an opportunity for our doctors to learn and get all their CME points from home or from their office online through their computers, tablets or smartphones.

6. SMC's CME guidelines allow CME to be conducted via e-platforms so that doctors can fulfil their CME points through online means without the necessity to congregate physically. We urge doctors to keep in touch with AMS, CFPS and SMA and other online resources for CME points. This is an opportunity for us to learn as quickly as possible from the wealth of digital medical resources so that we remain well informed, updated and aware of the latest in medical developments.

7. You can also keep up to date with SMC's circulars and MOH's MedAlerts through the SMC website at <https://www.healthprofessionals.gov.sg/smc>

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Prof Chee Yam Cheng
President
Singapore Medical Council

¹ Programmes available from AMS, CFPS and SMA as of 28 Feb 2020

PB	Programmes	Date	Titles or Source
AMS	Webinar	29 Feb 2020	COVID-19: The Singapore Experience
CFPS	Webinar	7 to 8 Mar 2020	Chronic Disease Management (incl re-run)
CFPS	Webinar	28 to 29 Mar 2020	Mental Health Update (incl re-run)
SMA	CME articles with quizzes	Ongoing activity	In the Singapore Med Journal online