



SMC CIRCULAR NO. 3/2020

28 April 2020

To all registered medical practitioners

RAISED CME CAP FOR CATEGORY 3A AND CORE POINTS FOR COVID-19 RELATED CME ACTIVITIES

In the previous SMC Circular dated 2 March 2020 (SMC CIRCULAR NO. 2/2020), we have advised doctors that they can fulfil their CME requirements via online platforms, including webinars during DORSCON Orange. Many doctors welcomed this provision. However, some doctors had challenges participating in such online platforms.

Raised CME cap for Cat 3A activities

2. SMC has considered the feedback and decided to **raise the cap for Cat 3A activities from 10 to 20 CME points¹ for doctors whose practising certificates (PCs) are expiring on 31 December 2020 or 2021.**

3. Please refer to Table 1 below for the caps for all the CME activities:

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)	20 (previously 10)
Cat 3B	Accredited distance-learning programmes with verifiable self-assessment	36

¹ The CME points referred in this circular apply to doctors holding a 2-year PC. For doctors holding a 1-year PC, the CME points will correspondingly be halved.

4. With the increase in cap for Cat 3A, doctors can fulfil their CME requirements by participating in Cat 3A and Cat 3B activities without further need for acquiring CME points from Cat 1 or Cat 2. For example, doctors may accrue 50 CME points by reading 20 articles (Cat 3A) and completing 30 online assessments (Cat 3B).

5. Doctors may refer to SMC's [List of Accredited CME Activities](#) for their Cat 3A and Cat 3B claims. Doctors may also read articles that are published in PubMed or from peer reviewed journals for Cat 3A claims.

Awarding of core points for COVID-19 related CME activities

6. SMC has also decided that **CME activities related to COVID-19 will be considered core points for all doctors.**

7. For doctors who were previously awarded non-core points for Cat 3A and 3B claims for COVID-19 related articles/assessments, the non-core points can be converted to core points **if there are insufficient core points 6 months before the PC expiry date.**

8. Currently, SMC is experiencing a surge in CME claims since the issuance of the 2 March 2020 Circular. We seek your understanding that the claims processing time may be longer than usual.

9. For doctors whose PCs are expiring on 31 December 2020 **and who have difficulty in meeting core points requirements**, please email SMC at smc_cme@spb.gov.sg **from 1 July 2020 onwards** if you have participated in COVID-19 related CME previously which were not counted as core points. The Secretariat staff supporting SMC will then look at your CME record to convert such COVID-19 CME activities as core points.

10. For doctors whose PCs are expiring on 31 December 2020 **who have already accumulated sufficient CME core-points by 1 July 2020**, there is no need to contact the Secretariat staff to convert previous COVID-19 CME activities to core points.

11. In summary, for doctors whose PCs are expiring on 31 December 2020 or 2021;

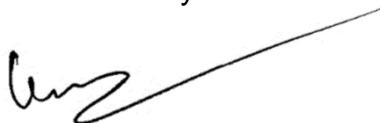
(a) the cap for Cat 3A will be raised to 20 points; and

(b) CME activities related to COVID-19 will be considered core points for all doctors.

12. For more information on CME, you may visit the SMC website at this [link](#). For further enquiries, please write to us at smc_cme@spb.gov.sg.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



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President
Singapore Medical Council