

DEFINITION OF A PHYSICIAN ORGANIZATION:

As per the CQDPCM Code of Ethics (for activities held in Quebec): A for-profit or non-profit organization that has more than one health care professional as a member.

Types of organizations that are considered Physician Organizations:

- Educational institutions
- Medical clinics
- Professional associations, scientific organizations and physician groups
- Faculties of medicine
- Other medical organizations at the provincial or national level

As per the National Standards for Support of Accredited CPD Activities: A not-for-profit group of health professionals with a formal governance structure, accountable to and serving, among others, its specialist physician members through:

- Continuing professional development
- Provision of health care
- Research

Types of organizations that are considered Physician Organizations:

- Faculties of medicine
- Hospital departments, units or divisions
- Medical (specialty) societies
- Medical associations
- Medical academies
- Physician research organizations
- Health authorities not linked to government agencies

Types of organizations that are not considered Physician Organizations:

- Industry: pharmaceutical companies and their advisory groups, medical and surgical supply companies, medical device companies, communication companies and other for-profit organizations
- Government departments or agencies (e.g. Health Canada, Public health Agency of Canada)
- For-profit online educators, publishing companies or simulation companies (e.g. Medscape, CAE)
- Small number of physicians working together to develop educational programming
- Disease-oriented patient advocacy organizations (e.g. Canadian Diabetes Association)

Three (3) physicians from the same department within a faculty of medicine that are developing the activity as members of the department are considered to be a physician organization. If the three physicians are from different departments within a faculty of medicine, the group cannot be equated as a physician organization because physician organizations must have a formal governance structure, accountable to and serving, among others, its specialist physician members.