



CME credit: Fewer hours, but still a good deal

Beginning this month, each issue of the print version of the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine* will offer 1 hour of Continuing Medical Education credit—a change from the previous 2 hours. The Accreditation Council of Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) requires that journals limit the hours offered to actual time spent; we conducted a test and found that the average time for a physician to complete *CCJM* tests was 51 minutes.

Ironically, this turn of events is a sign of success. We changed the *CCJM* to make it as useful, timely, concise, and easy to read as possible. The result was higher readership, and more advertisements.

When we first offered CME in 1994, with 2 hours of credit per issue, the test was based on an average of eight articles per issue. Although we continue to publish more than eight articles per issue, a new ACCME rule prohibits placing advertisements within articles used in the CME tests. We try to position the advertisements outside the articles as much as possible (as we have always done), but inevitably some must be placed within articles, due to the limitations of the printing and binding process. This has reduced the number of CME articles to an average of four per issue.

Readers send us about 2,500 completed CME tests every month; about 200 are from first-time test-takers. Many of you include a suggestion for a 1-Minute Consult question (see the form on page 96) and often, a handwritten compliment about the *Journal*.

The *Journal's* CME test still has the advantages of being free of charge and convenient—you can read the *Journal* and take the test anywhere, and there's no need to bother with a check or credit card. You can earn 12 contact hours of credit a year by reading easy-to-understand reviews that are relevant to clinical practice. You still have up to 3 months to return each test, and you get your accreditation letter within 6 weeks.

Many of you have told us that you consider the CME test well written and a good learning experience. We will continue to do our best to provide a journal that merits your time and attention.

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