

AACB Continuing Professional Development Scheme

Definition of Continuing Professional Development

Continuing professional development (CPD) refers to the active engagement of a professional in a range of activities throughout their career to ensure they continue to practise safely, effectively, and legally within their evolving scope of practice.

Mission statement

The mission of the AACB CPD Scheme is to advance the safe practice of laboratory medicine by providing CPD opportunities, and the means of recording, review and reporting activities undertaken by members.

Scheme Governance

The program is operated under the direction of the AACB Education Committee and supported by the activities developed and delivered under the direction of the Education Committee, including the AACB Annual Scientific Conference, RCPA-AACB Chemical Pathology Course, and local Branch education seminars and scientific meetings.

The AACB Education Committee regularly reviews the program operation for quality improvement purposes, including activity categories and points allocations (every two years), and participant feedback. Members of the Education Committee are expected to declare any conflicts of interest they may have in developing scientific programs, materials and when evaluating CPD records. Planning of educational activities are independent of any commercial sponsorship with the exception of industry sessions at the Annual Scientific Conference.

Confirmed attendances at AACB events and activities are considered to verified and will not be subject to auditing. Non-AACB events and activities are subject to a random audit (about 10% of participants) each year. The audit is conducted by a subcommittee of the AACB Education Committee and assesses activities for their relevance to the member's role and the number of points being claimed. The Committee may request further evidence of content and/or learning reflections from the member. Decisions on whether or not to validate an activity are final.

The AACB CPD Scheme is compliant with the requirements of the Australian Council for the Certification of Medical Laboratory Scientists (CMLS) and the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand.

CPD activities

The AACB CPD Scheme is designed to promote the continuing professional development of all members, and to support members in meeting their regulatory requirements (where applicable). The Scheme facilitates this by providing a means of recording and reporting on CPD activities. The Scheme is open to all AACB members, with automatic assignment to the Scheme on membership signup or renewal.

The aim of the AACB CPD Scheme is for participating members to have demonstrated their sustained commitment to learning and safe practice over a two-year period. Activities which can count towards the CPD goals are classified according to the nature of the activity, as shown in the table below. A point score based on the basic unit of one point per 30 minutes is applied to all activities. For AACB events and activities, the points are assigned by the AACB Office. For non-AACB events and activities, members select the most appropriate category when entering records.

Recording CPD

AACB members can access their CPD records through “My Account” option on the AACB website. Entries for third-party activities are made by members by following the add activity link. Members will be asked to supply evidence of activity (scanned copy of certificate, letter of invitation, etc.) and may be asked to provide brief reflective learning to assist in assessment of validity.

Privacy

Members CPD records are subject to AACB privacy policy.

AACB CPD Scheme Details

AACB CPD Scheme Details		
Category	Points	Unit of measure
Attendance at Scientific Meetings		
AACB Events		
AACB Annual Scientific Meeting	8	half day attended
RCPA AACB Chemical Pathology Course - per half day	8	half day attended
AACB Scientific Education Seminar or Workshop	8	half day attended
AACB Satellite Meeting	8	half day attended
AACB Branch Meeting	2	hour attended
AACB webinar	2	hour attended
Workshop participation	8	half day attended
International/National/State/Divisional/Regional Scientific Meeting	8	half day attended
Scientific seminars/research forums/lunch time meetings (not workplace clinical case reviews)	2	meeting attended
AACB Tutorial	2	hour attended
Presentation at Meetings		
Presentation at National/State/Divisional/Regional Scientific Meeting/Workshop or New Zealand SIG meeting	6	per 30 min presentation ¹
Presentation of poster (half credits if co-author but not the presenter)	6	per presentation
Presentation at Australian SIG or recognised workplace scientific meetings, seminars, research forums	3	per presentation
Presentation of AACB Tutorial	3	per presentation
Publications		
Primary author of an article published in a peer reviewed scientific journal	10	article published
Secondary author of an article published in a peer reviewed scientific journal	5	article published
Scientific article reviewed for a peer review journal	3	review published
Book review - published review of a scientific publication	3	review published
Professional Service		Max 10 per year
National/State/Divisional/Regional committees for AACB	2	year of service
Service on National Scientific Meeting Committee	2	year of service
Examinations Council Membership	2	year of service
NATA/IANZ assessor	2	year of service
Editor of Scientific Journal	2	years of service
New or reviewed article for “Pathology Tests Explained”	5	article published

AACB CPD Scheme Details		
Category	Points	Unit of measure
Attendance at Scientific Meetings		
Other Activities	Max 10 per year	
Professional, scientific or educational project development	2	hour of activity
Publication of short scientific or laboratory related articles - not peer reviewed	2	hour of activity
Teleconferences relevant to medical science (not workplace related)	2	hour of activity
Presentation of journal at workplace journal club	3	presentation
Not otherwise categorised	2	hour of activity

¹ (may be claimed in addition to attendance claim)