

How to Prepare Educational Objectives for CME that encompass changes in competence or performance or patient care

Learning Objective Format

Clearly stated learning objectives provide a focus for planning; help prospective registrants decide whether or not to attend a session, and help planners and learners evaluate the educational experience.

- ◆ Learning objectives should be written from the participant's perspective and describe what they should be able to do by the end of the session.
- ◆ Learning objectives should be specific, measurable and achievable. They may cover knowledge and competence or performance or patient care, but should not be limited to knowledge.
- ◆ Use action verbs, as appropriate for behavioral objectives, and avoid the use of “know” or “understand.”

Your list of objectives will be prefaced by the following phrase:

At the end of this session, participants should be able to.....

Sample Objectives:

- Develop a treatment plan for a newly diagnosed hypertensive patient with prediabetes.
- Diagnose the etiology of back pain.
- Select the appropriate antibiotic for community acquired pneumonia.
- Counsel patients for weight loss.
- Apply a practical approach to helping patients stop smoking (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, and Arrange).
- Perform a thorough breast exam.
- Appropriately manage patients with acute decompensated heart failure
- Evaluate a patient with symptoms of dizziness.
- Distinguish between cognitive impairment and depression.
- Identify patients who would benefit from gastrointestinal decontamination therapy
- Order the appropriate imaging study.