



Monash Division of General Practice

A guideline for CPD presenters

Monash Division of General Practice

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Thank you for agreeing to be a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) presenter for the Monash Division of General Practice (MDM). You might be aware of the increasing enthusiasm for an evidence based approach in keeping up to date in medicine and the Division, acting on behalf of its membership, is keen to take a leadership role in this regard.

MDM recognises that high quality CPD is based on rigorous, scientific research, and understands that a major purpose of CPD is to encourage the uptake of the results of research into clinical practice. At the same time, MDM is also aware that not all knowledge derives from research based evidence, and that a large part of clinical practice relies on expert opinion. In addition, it does not wish to limit the diversity of CPD activities nor prevent the introduction of new ideas. Nevertheless, the Division believes that the application of current, best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients is commensurate with quality general practice, and it therefore wishes to promote the explicit use of evidence in its CPD program. It also believes that CPD should be consistent with locally accepted guidelines.

Given widespread general practice (GP) interest in an evidence based medicine framework for CPD, MDM therefore suggests the following to you for your consideration.

Clarifying what is evidence based and what is not

When feasible, information imparted at CPD activities should be based on scientific evidence. When it is not feasible to do so, or if the topic does not lend itself to evidence based approach, this could be made known to the attendees. The source of evidence should be cited together with, where possible, the level of this evidence. The funding body for clinical trials together with any association with the presenter should be disclosed. Presentations should be consistent with current evidence based guidelines, or indicate where variations to the guidelines exist.

Teaching GPs about clinical effectiveness

Presentations should, if possible, make GPs aware of the hallmarks of clinical effectiveness. These include:

- Clinical endpoints or, where not available, explicitly labeled surrogate endpoints. This means referring to outcomes such as mortality or morbidity rather than physiological parameters.
- The absolute risk reduction of disease, death or morbidity and, by calculation, the 'number needed to treat'. This gives a better indication of the usefulness of an intervention than the relative risk reduction.
- The reporting of effectiveness rather than efficacy. Effectiveness takes into account the practicalities of implementing the intervention in the population.
- The total cost of the intervention and not just cost to the patient.

We are interested in your feedback about this guideline for CPD presenters, and in particular, whether it helped you understand more about the interests of your GP audience.

Management Committee, Monash Division of General Practice

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This document can be downloaded from the Monash Division website at: www.monashdivision.com.au/assets/images/cpd.pdf