

National Standard Definition of a Physician Organization

A not-for-profit group of health professionals with a formal governance structure, accountable to and serving, among others, its physician members through:

- Continuing professional development
- Provision of health care and/or Research

This definition includes (but is not limited to) the following groups:

- Faculties of medicine
- Hospital departments or divisions
- Medical societies
- Medical associations
- Medical academies
- Physician research organizations
- Physician clinic
- Health authorities not linked to government agencies
- Canadian provincial medical regulatory authorities (MRAs)

This definition excludes pharmaceutical companies or their advisory groups, medical supply and surgical supply companies, communication companies or other for-profit organizations and ventures/activities.

Types of organizations that are not considered physician organizations:

- Disease-oriented patient advocacy organizations (e.g. Canadian Diabetes Association).
- Government departments or agencies (e.g. Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada).
- Industry (e.g. pharmaceutical companies, medical device companies, etc.).
- Medical education or communications (MEC) companies (e.g. CME Inc.).
- For-profit' on-line educators, publishing companies or simulation companies (e.g. Medscape, CAE).
- Small number of physicians working together solely and specifically to develop educational programming.

For additional information regarding the National Standard for Support of Accredited CPD Activities [click here](#).