

APPENDIX G

Studying for BMAS reaccreditation – notes for guidance

Introduction

Reaccreditation occurs through a cumulative Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points system. 30 hours of CPD spread over 5 years (with a minimum of 5 hours in any one-year) should be presented to the Board for consideration.

At least 15 hours of CPD time should be spent externally on scientific meetings (or webcasts of these meetings), courses, presentation of papers at meetings, teaching at approved courses or attendance at approved relevant meetings.

Up to nine hours of time can be gained by reading relevant journals, undertaking practice audit, or other relevant distance learning.

The Assessors will judge whether or not individual activities are relevant in counting towards reaccreditation and guidance concerning this follows below. Candidates would be well advised to exceed the minimum requirement to be more certain of approval. CAEB members and Assessors are always willing to provide advice concerning individual cases.

‘Approved’ above refers to courses or meetings that have met the requirements of an appropriate college for use as CPD (for example one of the Royal Colleges).

Timing

BMAS accreditation accompanies the award of the Diploma in Medical Acupuncture (DipMedAc or Diploma), and this accreditation lapses automatically five years after it has been granted. Applications for reaccreditation can be made up to six months before this date.

Fees

The fee for assessment for reaccreditation is £45 payable by cheque made out to the British Medical Acupuncture Society.

The training requirement (30 hours)

The following list of educational activities should not be regarded as prescriptive, but rather as a guide.

In general, if CME has been granted for a course or meeting, this will be used as the training hours; if not, the length of the programme will be used. Programmed discussion time is accepted, but not meal times. A limited element of (not more than 3 hours) non-acupuncture training will be accepted in relevant medical topics, but a reasonable case must be made for the inclusion of subjects outside those given in the list.

For distance learning with some commonly used textbooks and journals, including acupuncture related material from non-acupuncture books and individual articles from other journals, a short synopsis should be submitted, and training hours will be awarded on receipt.

It should be noted that the BMAS does not accredit courses, and any non-BMAS hours used towards accreditation need to be detailed.

For non-BMAS courses or meetings a copy of the programme and certificate of attendance should be supplied, with a 200-300 word reflective note stating why you think the course is relevant to BMAS reaccreditation.

Western Medical Acupuncture (WMA) training is expected to make up the majority of the hours towards reaccreditation. TCM-based training is allowable for a maximum of 50% of the hours required (ie 15 of the 30 hours required for accreditation), and each TCM-based course will be allowable for half of the programmed hours.

A. Participation Learning (minimum of 15 hours)

1. Courses
 - a. BMAS Courses (CPD time - generally 6 hours per day)
 - b. Non BMAS WMA Courses (CPD time, but if not CPD approved the programme time may be used; see note above about non-BMAS courses)
 - c. Non BMAS TCM-based Courses (half of programme time, up to a maximum of half the total required)
2. BMAS and National Meetings
 - a. BMAS Scientific Meetings (CPD time - generally 6 hours per day)
 - b. Webcasts of BMAS Meetings (CPD time in Category A on completion of reflective notes, only if not already claimed in 2a above)
 - c. ICMART and International Symposia (Programme time)
 - d. Non BMAS WMA Meetings (CPD time, but if not CPD approved the programme time may be used; see note above about non-BMAS courses)
 - e. Non BMAS TCM-based Meetings (half of programme time, up to a maximum of half the total required)
 - f. BMAS Regional Group Meetings (CPD time by submission of reflective notes)
 - g. BMAS Blog Webinars (running time by submission of reflective notes)
 - h. 'What's the Point' videos (running time by submission of reflective notes)
3. Acupuncture Clinics
 - a. BMAS London Teaching Clinic – attendance as an observer (clinic time)
 - b. Clinics run by BMAS member with BMAS Accreditation – attendance as trainee or observer (clinic time whilst together with accredited member)
 - c. Other clinics – up to 1 hour per nominal half day session by submission of learning objectives and outcomes

B. Distance Learning (maximum of 10 hours)

1. BMAS webcasts (running time, or half of running time for those who attended the meeting and claimed CPD hours in Category A 2a above, by submission of reflective notes)
2. Acupuncture books – up to 2 hours per item, by submission of reflective notes
3. Journals – up to 2 hours per item by submission of reflective notes

C. Preparation Learning (maximum of 5 hours)

1. Presentation of lecture, research paper or poster
 - a. to BMAS or ICMART (3 hours)
 - b. to medical audience or nursing, physiotherapy, dental or veterinary audience (3 hours)
 - c. to lay audience (2 hours)
2. Media interview
 - a. Broadcast TV or Radio (1 hour)
3. Publication of article – if based on a presentation the maximum combined time of 4 hours is awarded
 - a. in an acupuncture journal (3 hours)
 - b. in any other medical journal (3 hours)
 - c. in the lay press (2 hours)
4. Research and audit
 - a. Preparation (2 hours)
 - b. Publication (+1 hour)

D. Related Medical Learning (maximum of 5 hours)

1. Basic Medical Sciences
2. Neurophysiology
3. Pain Management
4. Neurology
5. Rheumatology
6. Orthopaedics
7. Sports Injuries

Within each topic:

- a. Lectures or case presentations (CPD time)
- b. Out-patient observer (clinic time)
- c. Books / journals – up to 2 hours per item by submission of reflective notes

COUNSELLING AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

Unsuccessful candidates will be offered advice intended to improve the chances of success after subsequent reapplication.

Candidates who are referred and wish to appeal against this decision should write to the Chair of the Competence, Accreditation and Examining Board, c/o the BMAS office, within four weeks with full details of the nature of his/her appeal. The Assessor(s) who made the original decision to refer the candidate will provide a written report to the Chair stating the basis on which the decision was made.

The Chair together with one further member of the CAEB will consider, within four weeks:

1. the details of the candidate's appeal
2. the written report of the Assessor(s)
3. the candidate's certificates of course attendance, and other relevant documents.

The candidate will be informed of the Chair's decision in writing. This decision will be final and binding. Any comments concerning the process of assessment, as opposed to the assessment result, should be addressed to the Chairman of the BMAS.