Optimizing CPE Opportunities

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.
Chinese Proverb

Can learning opportunities used by preceptors be awarded continuing education (CPE) credit with CDR's current guidelines? Are there any additional opportunities for capturing learning with the Professional Development Portfolio? These are questions frequently asked of CDR by education program directors and practitioners serving as preceptors for supervised practice programs.

CPE credit, for knowledge of skills obtained to successfully be a preceptor, is available for RDs and DTRs. In addition to information about these opportunities for CPE credit, examples of how preceptors can optimize their professional development opportunities are provided.

How has the PDP expanded the definition of CPE?

Recognizing that each individual has a unique preference for learning, the Portfolio embraces diversity in learning styles, offering a variety of CPE activities for professional development, such as conventional activities (eg, workshops, journal clubs, case presentations, self-study), as well as academic coursework, exhibits, posters, reading professional journal articles, and sponsored independent learning.

Also, by grounding the Portfolio in professional practice, the professional assumes responsibility for selecting learning activities that have a direct relationship to that practice. CDR's role then shifts from approving or denying continuing education activities to one of providing the tools for self-directed learning, verifying that each step in the process has been completed and meets minimum guidelines.

CPE opportunities within the current guidelines

Opportunities, such as the following, are available to practitioners for CPE credit (See PDP Guide for complete details).

- Workshops to maintain communication and/or education skills (Activity Type 150)
- Journal clubs to review literature on key topics, such as innovative foodservice quality improvement approaches (Activity Type 160)
- Attending Case Presentations (Activity Type 110)
- Self-study activities to enhance time and resource management skills (Activity Types 700-740)

The program can be found on www.cdr campus.com, and it is good for 8 CPEUs. Individuals completing the program will be able to access it at their convenience on CDR's online campus.