

## ACCME Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME<sup>®</sup>) is deeply committed to advancing healthcare workforce learning and improvement as a fundamental strategy to address public health imperatives such as the opioid crisis. We believe the accredited continuing education (CE) community has made — and will continue to make — significant contributions to improving clinician practice and patient care related to acute and chronic pain management and substance use disorder (including prevention, screening, intervention, treatment and long-term recovery). Through [accreditation standards](#), [collaboration and innovation](#), the ACCME strives to support educators and learners as they navigate the complex journey from today's practice to better health for patients, families, and communities across our nation.

### Collaborating with Communities

Communities across the country are experiencing the opioid abuse epidemic in ways specific to their populations and environments, and accredited CE providers respond nimbly to local needs that vary by individual, profession, specialty, location, practice setting, and other factors. Accredited CE providers have demonstrated their commitment by partnering with their communities, law enforcement agencies, and local governments to support initiatives to address the opioid crisis.

### Supporting CME Educators

We produce resources such as [articles, videos, and webpages](#) to encourage accredited CE providers to address public health imperatives, including the opioid crisis. At our annual meetings, we hold public health summits to bring together educators and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to collaborate on initiatives to address the opioid crisis and other public health priorities.

### Encouraging a Team-based Approach

Healthcare is delivered in teams and all members of the team have an important role in improving pain management and addressing substance use disorder. The ACCME recognizes the value of team-based care and inclusive strategies to address the opioid crisis and we believe patients should play a key role in designing and delivering opioids-related and pain management CE. With new [accreditation criteria](#), [Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education](#), and [resources](#) for CE providers, we encourage interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) and patient engagement in CE to identify effective solutions to this complex crisis.

### Collaboration to Support Education Initiatives

The ACCME collaborates with government agencies, national health organizations, and our colleague accreditors in the health professions to facilitate opportunities for accredited CE to contribute to public health initiatives. We are a member of the Conjoint Committee on Continuing Education, a national, interprofessional coalition of organizations in the health professions leading continuing education efforts to address the opioid crisis. We work with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to support the implementation of the [Opioid Analgesics Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy](#), which leverages the accredited CE community to deliver prescriber education about appropriate pain management and safer opioid prescribing. The ACCME is a partner in the [AAMC National Workshop to Advance Medical Education to Combat Opioid Misuse: Working Together Across the Continuum](#) and providing joint leadership of the Education and Training Workgroup of the [National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative to Counter the Opioid Epidemic](#).