

FIGO's CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT credits (CPDs)

Description

FIGO's *Continuing Professional Development credits* (CPDs) are designed to encourage medical professionals to regularly update and improve their knowledge of clinical "best practice" – and to ensure that such knowledge is effectively *embedded* and understood. A CPD will typically be awarded for the equivalent of one hour of proper study.

FIGO's CPDs will be available to qualified doctors, nurses and midwives – and also to medical students. Initially CPDs will be offered for the study of resources provided by *The Global Library of Women's Medicine* but in due course they may also be offered for attendance at FIGO Congresses and for other related activities (perhaps including the study of FIGO Guidelines etc).

Method

As far as the programme of *The Global Library of Women's Medicine* is concerned CPDs will be offered for the effective study of individual chapters in the 50 volume "FIGO Continuous Textbook of Women's Medicine". Each chapter in this Textbook Series will offer the option to readers of completing a range of multiple choice questions related to the subject matter of that chapter. Those taking up this option will first be required to establish their medical professional category through a simple registration procedure. They will then be presented with multiple choice questions and invited to answer them online. If they answer sufficient successfully they will automatically receive a Certificate of Study Completion for that chapter plus 2 CPDs.

FIGO will hold a registration record of all CPDs that are awarded and any individual will be able to access his/her own CPD portfolio at any time to confirm the details of their continued learning achievements. (GLOWM is currently developing a simple programme to enable FIGO to do this in an easy and automatic way).

A special FIGO Continuing Education **Diploma** will be issued to all medical professionals who earns 50 or more CPDs and they will then be enrolled into *The FIGO Diplomates Association*. Thereafter continued membership of this Association will require members to continue to earn at least 10 further CPDs every three years.

Standards

The CPDs will be structured to require evidence of applied study and achievement of learning outcomes. This will be done by the use of three different types of multiple choice questions: "true/false", "one best answer" and "extended matching". As far as possible questions will be set with reference to the objectives enshrined in Bloom's Taxonomy namely "knowledge", "comprehension", "application", "analysis", "synthesis", "evaluation". To avoid any possible conferring on answers the questions will be automatically and randomly varied every time an assessment is undertaken.

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Outcome

CPDs will be available to members of the medical profession only, namely doctors, nurses, midwives and medical students – all of whom will be required to go through a simple registration procedure prior to assessment. CPD credits will be accompanied by a “Certificate of Study Completion” (of a specified topic/chapter title) on successful completion.

Each recipient of a CPD award will be given access to a personalised *ePortfolio* which will provide a permanent record (both for the recipient and for FIGO) of each award, its date and its topic.

Benefits

The main benefit to individuals of receiving CPDs from FIGO will be the evidence of continuing study that he/she will be able to show to supervisors or others. In due course, it is also hoped that many national health councils or similar institutions in different countries around the world will also recognise these awards (initial contacts with some countries have been encouraging in this respect, however, whilst considerable efforts will be made to establish this recognition it is not possible to predict in advance how long this may take or how many relevant institutions will respond positively).

Other benefits to recipients may include discounts for attending certain FIGO functions and membership of FIGO's worldwide *Diplomates Association* (a global network of medical professionals committed to continuous education and advancement – and linked together by a regular Newsletter and access to a Communal Blog).

