

Table 2. Continuing Medical Education and revalidation (recertification) in countries worldwide

Country	Recertification cycle (Years)	Compulsory requirements for recertification and CME	Requirements for CME	Lead healthcare organizations
Australia/ New Zealand	1	Yes	My CPD credits are earned based on 6 categories: educational development, teaching and research, group learning activities, self-assessment programs, structured learning projects and practice review. Annual requirement: 100 credits	Royal Australasian College of Physicians (PB)
Austria	3	Yes	Legal requirement (150 credits/yr) (40 credits in physician's specific specialty)	Austrian Medical Chamber (PB)
Belgium	3	No	Financial incentive (increased salary by about 4%) to earn 200 credits per year and participate in two peer-reviews. Specialists must also engage in practical activities such as on-calls/consultations.	Minister of Public Health (G); National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (IF)
Bulgaria	3	No	No	Ministry of Health (G)
Canada	5	Yes (Fellows of RCPSC)	Framework of CPD is based on 3 sections: assessment, self-learning and group learning. Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada must complete a minimum of 40 credits of CPD every year. ³⁷	Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (PB)
Croatia	6	Yes	Failure to comply requires examination to continue to practice.	Croatian Medical Chamber (IA)
Cyprus	3	Yes	No	Cyprus Medical Association (PB)
Czech Republic	5	Yes	No sanctions for first 6 years.	Medical Chamber (IA)
Denmark	N/A	No	No	Danish Medical Association (PB)
Finland	1	No	No	National Evaluation Council for Continuing Medical Education
France	5	Yes	Lawsuits by the regional councils of the French Medical Association (not monitored). CME is coupled with medical audit of professional practices EPP. ³⁶ Specialists have to earn a total of 250 credits in each cycle, whereof 100 of them must be in EPP. ³⁸	National Councils for Continuing Medical Education (PB)
Germany	5	Yes (GPs and Specialists contracted by social insurance funds)	Non-compliance results in reduced reimbursement, 2 years later, accreditation is withdrawn. Physicians need to earn 250 CME credits every 5 years. ³⁶ In addition, specialists need to demonstrate that 70% of their vocational training has been targeted towards their specialty.	Regional chambers of physicians (PB)
Greece	5	Yes (National Health Service Doctors)	No	Committee of Education and Training of the Central National Health Council
Hungary	5	Yes	Non-compliance leads to a special examination before a commission.	Medical Chamber

Adapted from the World Health Organization.⁴⁸

CME: continuing medical education; CPD: continuous professional development; G: government, IA: independent authority, IF: insurance fund, PB: professional body; EEP: Evaluation des Pratiques Professionnelles; GPs: general practitioners; RCPSC: Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; ABMS MOC: American Board of Medical Specialties Maintenance of Recertification; AMA: American Medical Association; PRA: Physician's Recognition Award.