

NSCMIRTP Continuing Professional Development (CPD) FAQs

NSAMRT would like to answer some questions we have been asked re the CDP program that will become part of practice when the new college is proclaimed. If you have any further questions, suggestions or concerns please feel free to contact Lisa Bonin, Chair of Credentials Committee at lisa.bonin@nshealth.ca or Julie Avery Executive Director NSAMRT at info@nsamrt.ca

Why is CPD so important?

The purpose of the CPD program is to ensure registrants maintain standards of practice and to promote ongoing self-evaluation, competence and development. Practice in the areas of medical imaging and radiation therapy are constantly changing along with the responsibilities and accountabilities of the professionals that deliver this care to the public. As a regulated health professional, registrants are required to remain current and competent in their practice. This includes currency in both technical and clinical advances in their field, as well as with the changes that impact the larger healthcare environment. The NSCMIRTP's CPD program is one means of assuring the public that registrants are meeting the standard of practice requirements for their profession and that continuing competence and improvement is promoted.

What are some examples of things that will count for CPD?

Some examples of what members will earn CPD credits for include;

- professional association involvement –NSCMIRTP, CAMRT, Sonography Canada, CRPA, etc...
- clinically applicable learning –preceptoring students, lunch & learns, medical rounds etc...
- educational activities –attending a conference, giving a presentation, taking a course, etc...
- research, contributing to published work, collaborator/investigator on a research study, journal club, etc

Do I have to get credits from each section?

No. However, some activities will have maximum credit allowances, such as journal reading, in order to encourage members to engage in CPD in a variety of areas.

How many credits will I need to earn?

Members will be required to complete 30 continuing professional development (CPD) credits every 2 calendar years.

How do I apply for credits for something that is not on the pre-approved list?

An Application for Credit can be completed and submitted to the Credentials Committee for consideration. This process must occur 3 months before the anticipated date of activity. Retroactive approval will not be granted if the activity has occurred before you submit an application.

Will the CPD program begin the day the College is officially formed?

When the College is formed, members will be expected to begin earning and tracking their CPD activities. If the College is formed in the middle of a calendar year, required credits will be pro-rated for the first 2 year reporting cycle. There will be support provided in this initial phase-in period to ensure registrants have the opportunity to become familiar with the expectations and processes associated with the CPD program.

Can I use the "unused" credits I have now?

You can use credits that fall within the 2 year tracking period only. Any credits earned prior to proclamation cannot be used.

How will I keep a proper record of CPD credits? What does the platform look like?

It is up to each member to keep any documentation (electronic and hard copies) pertaining to the CPD activities. The goal is to provide members with an online platform for tracking progress and uploading documents. This will assist members with organizing their credits, especially in the instance of an audit.

What percentage of registrants will have their CPD portfolios audited?

The auditing process will be performed on a random selection of 5% of our members each reporting cycle.

What happens when I get audited?

When you are selected to be audited, the Credentials Committee will request hard copies of all documents related to your claims of credit earning. These documents will include, but are not limited to conference sign-in sheets, certificates of completion, receipts, power point presentations and journal articles. Essentially, any piece of evidence which demonstrates that you were involved in CPD will be requested for the auditing process.

What happens if I do not complete the required CPD?

In the implementation phase of the CPD program, the goal is to introduce and familiarize all members with the learning and submission processes. Non-compliance will be addressed in the form of a letter, reminding the member of the due date and a short grace period extension. The college will strive to assist members having difficulty earning sufficient CPD credits by suggesting CPD opportunities. If still non-compliant a letter or warning will be sent to the registrant. If further action is necessary, the member's case will be referred to the Professional Practice committee.

What are the penalties?

If the professional practice investigation finds a registrant remains non-compliant with the CDP program after a warning and grace period has been provided the repercussion is license suspension.

Will the credits I earn with other organizations count towards NSCMIRTP CPD credits?

eg. Sonography Canada, mammography, dosimetry

As long as an activity fulfills the requirements of the NSCMIRTP CPD program it can be counted towards the required 30 CPD credits regardless whether it is also being counted for another organization.

Can credits in one year be carried over to another year?

Credits must be earned within the two year time period of the CDP cycle. Activities/credits cannot be carried over from previous cycles.

Will people working part-time still require the same number of credits?

Yes, all registrants regardless of number of hours worked or employment status are required to meet the same CPD requirements.

Will the College assist managers with the staffing and budgeting for CPD opportunities occurring during work hours?

Managers are aware of the importance of CPD and that members must meet this mandatory requirement to maintain licensure to practice. The College will continue to have monies available to registrants for lunch and learn opportunities and providing managers with information on opportunities available for CPD credits. The College will have no role in logistics of staffing or budgeting CDP opportunities in the workplace.

How will the College advertise education opportunities?

The College will provide registrants with information on known educational opportunities through the website, eblasts, blogs and site champions. The College website will also link to sites that provide services to registrants.

Will the College be doing anything to help registrants meet their CPD requirements?

Meeting CPD requirement is ultimately the professional responsibility of the registrant. The College will help support registrants in providing information on opportunities, helping with any difficulties in utilizing CPD tracking platforms and answering any general questions around CDP.

Will registrants on a Leave of Absence be required to maintain the same number of credits?

Policies around leave of absence and NSCMIRTP membership are not finalized. Until these are completed the effect on CDP requirements cannot be realized.

Will registrants transferring from other provinces be able to transfer their CPD credits?

Registrants will be required to earn a prorated amount of credits based on the when they became registered with NSCMIRTP. Only credits earned while a member of the college can be counted. If a registrant is a member of two colleges simultaneously as long as an activity fulfills the requirements of the NSCMIRTP CPD program it can be counted towards the required 30 CPD credits regardless whether it is also being counted for another College.