CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 1195 - Cultural and Linguistic Competency

Requirement

California Assembly Bill 1195, requires continuing medical education activities with patient care components to include curriculum in the subjects of cultural and linguistic competency. It is the intent of the bill, which went into effect on July 1, 2006, to encourage physicians and surgeons, CME providers in the state of California, and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to meet the cultural and linguistic concerns of a diverse patient population through appropriate professional development. For a copy of the Bill, click on this url: http://tinyurl.com/l22wzmn

Cultural competency is defined as a set of integrated attitudes, knowledge, and skills that enables health care professionals or organizations to care effectively for patients from diverse cultures, groups, and communities.

Linguistic competency is defined as the ability of a physician or surgeon to provide patients who do not speak English or who have limited ability to speak English, direct communication in the patient’s primary language.

Speaker Guidelines

It is the expectation that speakers participating in UC Davis CME activities incorporate linguistic and/or cultural competency issues relevant to the topic of their presentation. Suggested approaches to meet this requirement are as follows:

1) Include relevant information on differences in prevalence, diagnosis, and treatment of medical conditions in diverse populations.
2) Apply linguistic skills to communicate effectively with the target population. This may include linguistic translations of common terms in your topic area.
3) Utilize cultural information to establish therapeutic relationships.
4) Incorporate pertinent cultural data in diagnosis and treatment of your topic.
5) Include cultural and ethnic data to the process of clinical care in your lecture.
6) Include recommendations for appropriate cultural and linguistic resources (websites, handouts, reference cards, patient education, tapes/CDs/handbooks, local resources, etc.) in handout materials. Resources are available at http://cme.ucdavis.edu.

A CME activity may offer specifically designed and focused sessions within a larger program, or incorporate the elements suggested above into relevant sessions.

Resources

The UC Davis CME office has developed a list of resources and handout materials that can be distributed at live conferences. The resource files are also available on our website at http://cme.ucdavis.edu for easy access by planners, course-directors, speakers and participants.