



CME is a life-long process.....start now!



Singapore Orthopaedic Association

Special Announcement

Compulsory CME for Orthopaedic Surgeons

Dear Members,

You must know by now that all practising doctors must satisfy certain criteriae of compulsory Continuing Medical Education for re-issuance of the Practising Certificate from 1st January 2003. Each doctor – specialist or non-specialist – must log a minimum of 50 CME points over two calendar years, starting 1st January 2003.

This circular is to provide you with information and details of the methods of achieving the 50 CME points and to announce the steps the SOA has taken to ensure every member is able to participate and accumulate these points in the easiest manner. Those in private practice may find it more difficult to attain the required points, so this circular should be helpful to them in particular. However, it is assured that everyone will succeed.

There are essentially 3 major categories providing opportunities to accumulate a possible **68 points each year**. One only needs to accumulate a minimum of 25 points each year, but it is advisable to accumulate the points early in case circumstances prevent one from attending CME activities as the year draws to a close. **Excess points cannot be carried forward to the next year**. The categories are outlined in Annex A but summarised below:

Category	Type of Activity	Point claim	Submitted to SMC by	What you must do
IA	Grand Ward Rounds	1 per Round	Department/Hospital	Sign in on CME attendance sheet at venue
IB	Local meeting, lecture, conference, seminar, workshops, courses	1 per day 2 per day 2 per paper presented Max 12 per event	Organiser	Sign in on CME attendance sheet at venue
IC	Overseas meeting, lecture, conference, seminar, workshops, courses	1 per day 2 per day 2 per paper presented Max 12 per approved event	YOU	Submit online with password at http://www.smc-cme.gov.sg/ or use Annex D to fax to AM (S'pore) or SMA
Maximum claim per calendar year		25 points		
II	Publications	10 for 1 st author in peer reviewed journal 5 for other author in peer reviewed journal 4 for 1 st author in non-peer reviewed journal 2 for other author in non-peer reviewed journal	YOU	Submit online with password at http://www.smc-cme.gov.sg/ or use Annex D to fax to AM (S'pore) or SMA
Maximum claim per calendar year		20 points		
IIIA	Self-study	1 per paper/journal/tape/ non-verifiable online CME programme	YOU	Submit online with password at http://www.smc-cme.gov.sg/ or use Annex D to fax to AM (S'pore) or SMA
Maximum claim per calendar year		5 points		
IIIB	Distance-learning with structured and verifiable on-line courses	1 per module	YOU/ Organiser	Submit online with password at http://www.smc-cme.gov.sg/ or use Annex D to fax to AM (S'pore) or SMA
Maximum claim per calendar year		18 points		
Total possible claim per calendar year		68 points		

SMC CME Credit Requirements (Dec 2002)

For surgeons in private practice who have time and those who are in institutional practice, Category I points are the easiest to obtain. One can accumulate 25 points per year by just attending lectures, rounds and conferences of at least 1 hour's duration. For example, attending the Annual SOA Meeting of 3 days daily will get one 7 points; another 18 attendances at lectures or the SOA Saturday Conferences will achieve the maximum points for Category I. Please note that attending overseas meetings may not entitle one to the same points as a local meeting. Presenting a paper can add 2 more points per paper per meeting. Remember that only for events *accredited* by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, can the points be collected. One has to sign in each session on the CME form provided by the organiser. Please check beforehand that CME points *are* awarded for events that you wish to attend for CME.

It is most difficult to obtain points for Category II that requires publishing a scientific paper. A first author in institutional practice can attain 10 points per publication, but only 2 points can be claimed for being a second author in a non-peer-reviewed journal.

You can add 5 points in Category IIIA annually by reading just 5 issues of an accredited journal such as the J. Bone and Joint Surgery. A significant untapped source of points is in Category IIIB. One can obtain 18 points by logging electronically to a *verifiable* on-line CME programme, such as the one organised by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (see http://www3.aaos.org/product/disp_self.cfm). However, one must purchase each package for prices ranging between USD50-230 each. The SOA is in the process of putting on-line an *accredited* CME programme which any SOA member can participate. Your CME Subcommittee is currently testing this programme with a commercial vendor. The content will be gleaned from two major local sources, viz. the weekly Saturday Conferences and the monthly Core Sessions for Orthopaedic trainees. It will incorporate a PowerPoint lecture followed by a series of multiple-choice questions. Members can take the module anytime, and the final score (retest possible) is submitted to SMC, at 1 point per module. We will try to put on 18 modules per year, so that members need only log-in with their password to attain the majority of their required points and yet receive true continuing medical education at their own time.

Specialists must submit at least 20% of their points as **core** points, i.e. from orthopaedic-related activity. One can also submit 100% of their points as **core** points. Of course, those honorary members who are from other specialties must submit their core points from their own specialties. This means that 40 of 50 points can be obtained from attending **non-core** (non-orthopaedic) lectures, seminars and conferences.

Other than for Category IA and IB (local events), members must log-in to the SMC-CME website at <http://www.smc-cme.gov.sg/> (or to <http://www.smc.gov.sg/> after 1st April 2003) to submit claims. You will first encounter this page:

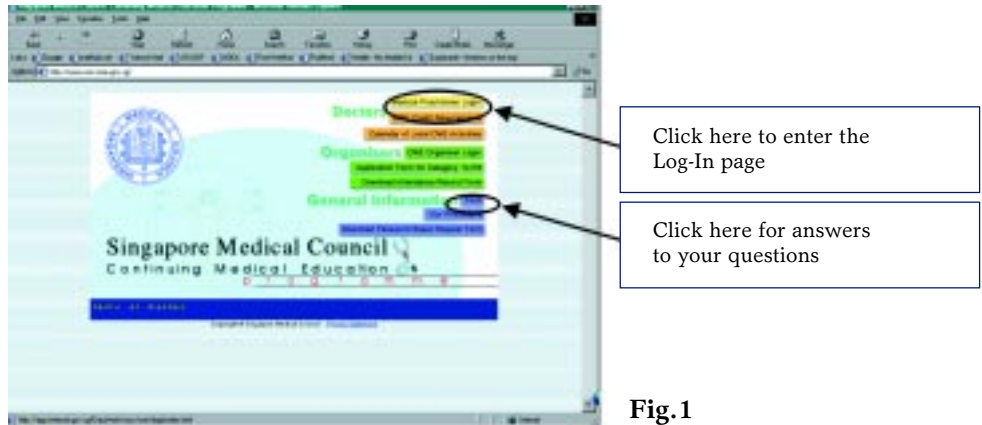


Fig.1

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	Criteria	Credit Points	Submitted By
IA - Grand Ward Round - Teaching/Tutorial Session	Not less than one hour	1	Course Organiser
IB - Local Scientific Meeting - Conference - Seminar - Lecture - Workshop - GSMS Courses(MMed exam, Graduate Diploma, 1 year full-time)	1 to < 2 hours (1/4 day) 2 to 4 hours (1/2 day) Maximum claim for attendance at any meeting: Max claim = Six 1/2 day sessions for any meeting	1 2 12	Course Organiser
	Presentation of paper (regardless of duration)	2 per original paper Points only claimed by presenter, who can be first or other author	
IC - Overseas Scientific Meeting - Conference - Seminar - Lecture - Workshop (Categories IA + IB + IC: Maximum 25 pts)	1 to < 2 hours (1/4 day) 2 to 4 hours (1/2 day) Maximum claim for attendance at any meeting: Max claim = Six 1/2 day sessions for any meeting	1 2 12	Medical Practitioner
	Presentation of paper (regardless of duration)	2 per original paper Points only claimed by presenter, who can be first or other author	
II Publication of original papers in health-related journals / Editorial work (Category II: Maximum 20 pts)	• Textbook / Refereed Journal (original paper)	Chief Editor/Reviewer/Main Author - 10 per original paper Subsidiary Editor/ Author - 5 per original paper	Medical Practitioner
	• Non-Refereed Journal (original paper)/CFPS CME Online Programme (per topic)	Chief Editor/Reviewer/ Main Author - 4 per original paper Subsidiary Editor/Author - 2 per original paper	
IIIA Self-study (Category IIIA: Maximum 5 pts)	• Reading of papers from Refereed Journals • Self-study from audio-visual tapes • Online education programmes without self-assessment or with self-assessment which <u>cannot</u> be verified.	1 per paper/ tape	Medical Practitioner
IIIB Distance learning (Category IIIB: Maximum 18 pts) (Categories IIIA + IIIB: Maximum 23 pts)	• Distance learning through interactive structured CME course <u>with</u> self-assessment that <u>can be verified</u>	1 per module or as recommended by AM/CFPS	CFPS and Specialists bodies

Only through feedback by members can the SOA be actively engaged with the Academy of Medicine – through them the Singapore Medical Council - and in future the College of Orthopaedic Surgeons in the Academy, to expand the means by which you as a busy practising surgeon and SOA member can easily achieve the targets set by SMC for CME. This includes:

- i. Expanding the list of approved overseas meetings (Category IC)
- ii. Expanding the list of approved refereed journals (Category IIIA)
- iii. Producing an on-line distance learning programme on the SOA website (Category IIIB)

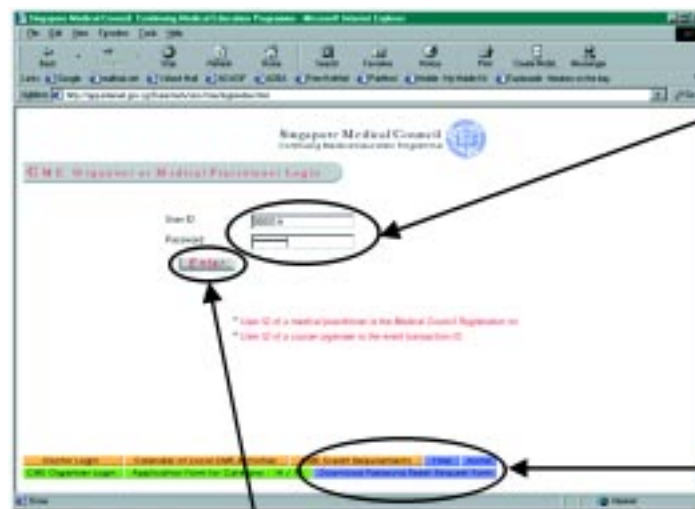
The SOA is setting up an on-line distance learning website for you to collect up to 18 core points per year from the comfort of your home or office, or through any computer with Internet access. This entails going through a series of slides in a specific topic, and answering a set of multiple-choice questions. To be a verifiable distance learning programme, SOA must design this to be testable, with an approved pass-mark. A similar programme for GP by the College of Family Physicians Singapore have set the pass-mark at 60%. We are in the process of on-line testing and will in future link the results directly to SMC so you need not submit it yourself.

In summary, it is actually a simple matter for any SOA member to accumulate enough compulsory CME points to ensure recertification in any given two years. The main purpose is to maintain currency in medical knowledge whether core or non-core. You can choose to have up to 20 of the 25 points per year to be in non-core activities, but having core knowledge in your speciality is much more relevant as orthopaedics continue to expand rapidly.

We hope that you will send us the feedback form or feel free to write to the Ex-Co to register your concerns, desires and suggestions so as to make CME a routine part of your professional life.

IMPORTANT DETAILS TO REMEMBER

- a. Think "CME is compulsory!" from now on. Your practice depends on it!
- b. Remember to sign-in on-site when you attend any Category IA and IB CME events. Check that CME points (core or non-core) are awarded at talks, courses and meetings. All 25 points for the year can be from Cat IA and IB events. All but 5 points can be from non-Core events. This is the easiest way to collect your CME points, but entails putting aside enough time to attend the events.
- c. Log-in to the SMC website after attending any Category IC (overseas) event, when you have a paper published, or if you have read a journal. Please remember that non-sanctioned overseas meetings are only awarded 2 points.
- d. In the near future you can log-in your Category IIIB points for taking the on-line CME programme on the SOA website.
- e. If you have no email/internet access, you should start one and learn how to access websites. For those who do not wish to claim Category IC, II, IIIA and IIIB points the paperless way you can make copies of Annex D, fill in your details and send it to the Academy of Medicine or the Singapore Medical Association, provided you are a paid-up member of either. This form can also be found on pages 52-53 in the (green) SMC Guide for Doctors and CME Organisers dated January 2002.
- f. You can obtain all the relevant information and get frequently-asked questions (FAQ's) answered by calling 6372-3060 or at the SMC website <http://www.smc-cme.gov.sg/> (or to <http://www.smc.gov.sg/> after 1st April 2003).



Click here to bring you to the Main Menu page

Fig.2

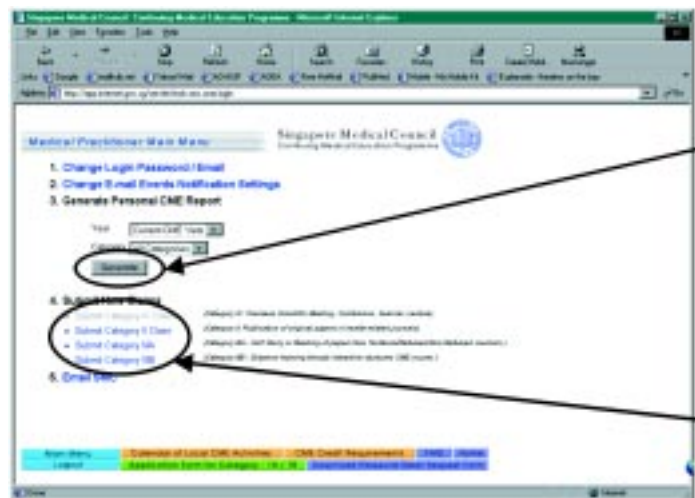
User ID: Enter your MCR number
 Password: Enter the number assigned to you by SMC in Dec 1999
 or
 password if you have already changed it

Alphabet is case-sensitive; MCR suffix is in upper-case (Caps).

If you don't have or remember your password:
 Call 6372-3060 for clarification
 or

Email: moh_smc@moh.gov.sg

or
 Download "Password Reset Request Form" and mail in (AnnexC). Charge is \$10.00



Click here generate your CME record for the selected year

Click on Category (IC, II, IIIA, IIIB) to submit claim:

The organisers will claim Category IA and IB for you only if you signed in at their events

Fig.3

Each Category Claim will bring you to a specific page for you to enter details of the CME activity. Just fill in the blanks presented to you. For Category IC (overseas scientific event), some meetings are pre-approved as shown below (Fig.4). The maximum claimable is 12 points per approved overseas event (usually 2 points for others):

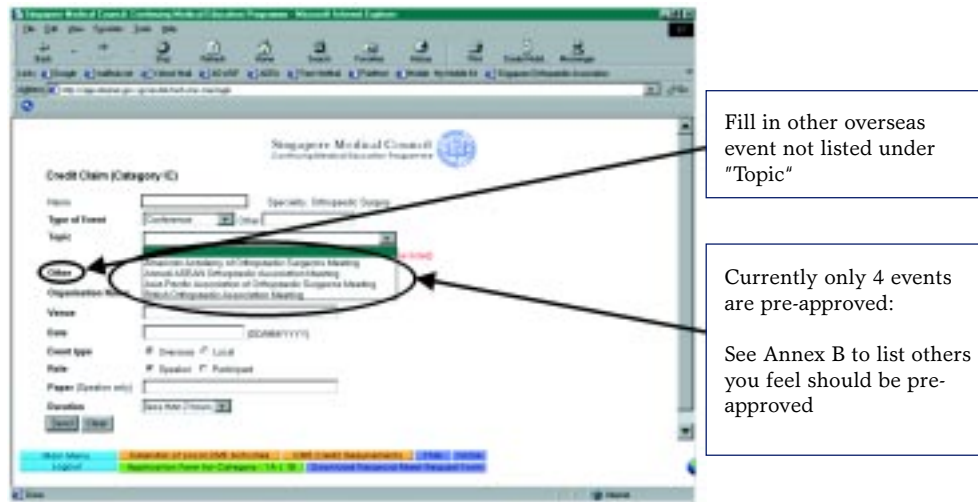


Fig.4

Category II (Fig.5) is for claiming CME points when you publish a paper or participate in a non-verifiable distance-learning programme. For a publication, you can receive as much as 10 CME points for being a main author, a chief editor or reviewer of a refereed journal, or as little as 2 points for being a subsidiary editor or second author in a non-refereed journal. The maximum that can be claimed per year is 20 points.

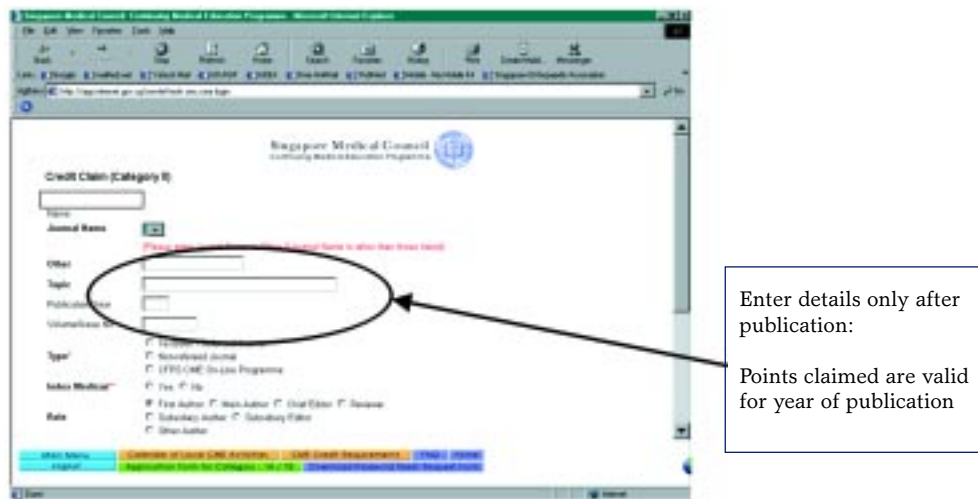


Fig.5

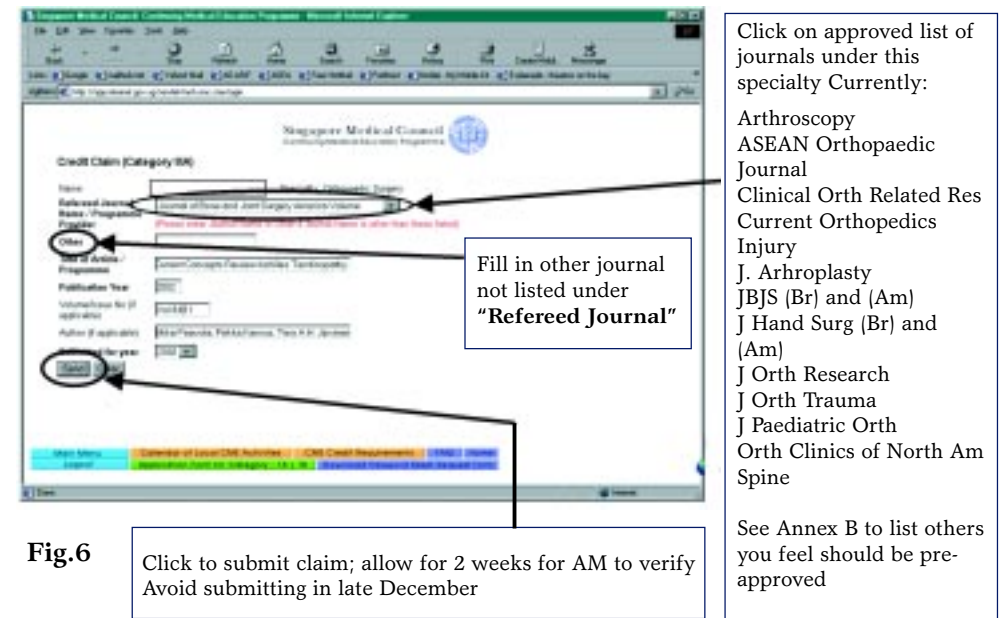


Fig.6

SMC will e-mail you to acknowledge receipt of a claim after verifying from the Academy of Medicine for Core points, so try not to submit late in December as points may not be logged in and cannot be carried forward to the next year. To check on your current or previous year's CME points, go to the Main Menu (Fig.1) after logging in. Click on the desired year, and click "Generate" and a similar "Personal Report" page (Fig.7) will appear:

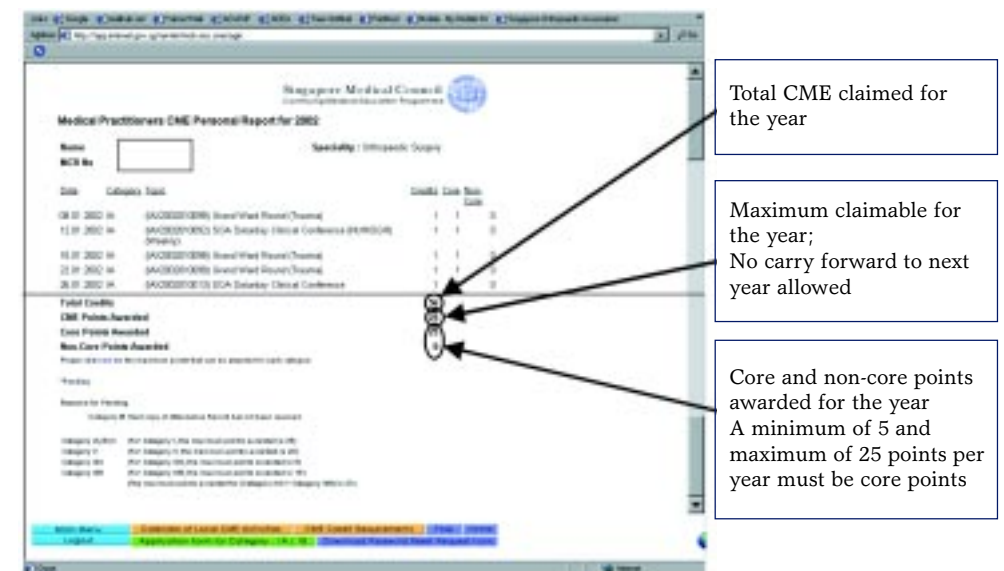


Fig.7