

Continuing Medical Education guidelines of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) Education Committee/Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS), Neurology Section

José M. Lopes Lima

Consultor Neurologia, Hospital de St. António, 4050 Porto, Portugal

Correspondence to J.M. Lopes Lima at above address

Received 30 October 1998; accepted 12 November 1998

HARMONIZATION OF THE EFNS/GUIDELINES AND UEMS CHARTER

Preamble

The Education Committee of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) decided to develop in conjunction with the Section of Neurology of the European Union of Specialist Doctors (UEMS) through the European Board of Neurology (EBN), Continuous Medical Education (CME) programmes for neurology in states represented through their national societies of neurology as members of the EFNS (member societies) and the UEMS Neurology Section.

CME in neurology has been introduced in a number of European countries in recent years. In some countries, proof of involvement in CME is required by employing authorities, professional licensing bodies and medical insurance companies. In other countries, CME has been set up voluntarily by the neurology speciality, while in the remainder CME programmes have not yet been established.

It is recognized that each country will develop CME appropriate to the circumstances pertaining to its own health service. Government and consumer pressure for enhanced quality assurance in medicine will strengthen the case for mandatory CME. With this in mind the EFNS Education Committee with the UEMS (Neurology Section) will continue to promote, facilitate and organize CME at the local, national and international levels so that all neurologists are prepared for the challenge of mandatory CME and/or reaccreditation should this arise.

EFNS member states have entirely different working practices and systems of organizing speciality training

in medicine. These guidelines

have been drawn up to allow a flexible solution for participation in CME for all European neurologists. In most instances CME will be organized by the same national authority responsible for the qualification of medical specialists.

Ideally, CME should be organized by the same body responsible for postgraduate training as from an organizational view point these areas are mutually supportive.

These guidelines are adapted to neurology from the ones proposed by the European Association of Radiology and the Section of Radiology of the UEMS.

Prior to the development of these guidelines, an analysis of the already (1994) existing CME Programmes in EFNS member states has been performed. The system used by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) of the United Kingdom, introduced on 1 January 1994, was found to be best suited to serve as a model for EFNS guidelines. This system is in turn similar to that which has been in place in the United States for some years.

With the permission of the RCP the following proposed EFNS guidelines are based on the RCP recommendations, but modified to take account of the European Charter on Continuing Medical Education so that they can be used in all European states. They also take into account the importance of other learning activities and teaching and research activities as described below (see articles 5 and 6) for CME. The usual hierarchy of groups of credits (e.g. type 1 and