

**THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
AND SURGEONS OF Canada**

**Louise Samson, MD, RFCPC  
Vice-president, Continuous professional development  
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada**

Traditional CME programs, where physicians listen to presentations by experts, constitute only one of six types of educational activities that specialists may use to meet requirements for maintenance of certification in Canada. The program rewards those who develop personal learning plans based on objective assessments of practice and professional needs. For instance, specialists who use self-administered tests to assess their knowledge and employ audits to review their practice earn double credits.

The framework of continuing professional development (CPD) options draws heavily from a conceptual model developed by Slotnick who found that specialists who encounter new information that is relevant to their practice undertake small learning projects to learn more about the innovation before putting it into practice.

The MOC program is the only national program to reward physicians for identifying and recording what they learned from attending educational sessions and from reflecting on their practice experiences. Specialists keep records of credits earned and personal learning projects in a Web Diary housed on the College's MOC dedicated portal at <http://www.mainport.org>.

The finding that 21,126 or 90.7 percent of Fellows of the College in practice in Canada in 2001, submitted CPD data supports acceptance of the program by the specialist community. The CPD options that Fellows used to earn their credits and the socio-demographic variables that influenced their preferences for CPD options will be discussed.

Learning objectives:

With this presentation, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify some of the principles of the adult learning
2. Select appropriate and innovative learning activities for a program of maintenance of competence
3. Explain what is a personal learning project and the difference between incidental learning and intentional learning