# PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GAP

## Identification and Description for
## Educational Activity Planning Process

**This discussion follows the directions of the ACCME Updated Accreditation Criteria:**
*"2. The provider incorporates into CME activities the educational needs (knowledge, competence, or performance) that underlie the professional practice gaps of their own learners.*
*3. The provider generates activities/educational interventions that are designed to change competence, performance or patient outcomes as described in its mission statement."*

Educational needs identified by program assessments and participant suggestions are prioritized by event planners and the program Executive Group. Priority program needs selected for activity design and implementation are framed in terms of <u>professional practice gaps.</u>

**A gap in professional practice is defined as the difference between:**
- **<u>current medical practice:</u>** observed health care processes or outcomes,
        and
- **<u>ideal medical practice</u>** potentially achievable –
    on the basis of current professional knowledge.

The citation of a **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GAP** in activity planning is accompanied by the description of the **EDUCATIONAL NEEDS** that will define learner objectives.

The **educational needs will define learning objectives** that will narrow the gap and encourage **OUTCOMES** of improved medical knowledge, competence, performance and/or patient care.

The **gap description** can be articulated with language such as:
    Incomplete or inadequate medical knowledge about . . .
    Lack of knowledge and performance in . . .
    Clinical performance data that defines. . .
    Need for clinical performance improvement in . . .
    Need for updated compliance with requisite clinical practice standards in . . .
    Requirement to qualify for specialty certification and/or institutional credentialing in . . .

Activity/event planner questions about gap description and/or the entire activity planning process should be directed to the program Executive Group via the program coordinator.