



CME good and bad news: Now 1.5 hours, but you must go online

This month I bring you the classic good-news/bad-news message.

First, the good news, and it is pretty good. We are expanding the free CME hours you can get by 50%, from 1 hour to 1.5 hours per issue. We can do this because we actually timed some of you taking the test, as the ACCME requires. The number of readers using the *Journal's* free CME service has been phenomenal, and we are glad to be able to continue it at this enhanced level.

Now the bad news (and it's not really *that* bad). Because of the escalating costs involved, we can no longer afford to receive and tabulate the paper CME tests for free as we did in the past. The ACCME's requirements for data collection to maintain the program have increased, and the number of tests we are processing has also increased. This combination affects the economics of the program such that we must automate it.

Therefore, starting this month, to get your 1.5 hours of CME credit, you must go online. We have considerably simplified the process for this. All you have to do is go to the *Journal's* web site (www.ccjm.org) and find the box labeled Journal CME. Click on the month you want to test for, and follow the instructions. Since the tests remain valid for 3 months, there will always be 3 months available online. After completing each test, you can then download and print your CME certificate immediately rather than having to wait for it to be delivered by mail.

Of course, we will continue to process all mail-in tests through the October issue, as long as they are submitted by the stated deadlines.

We think the good news is very good and the bad news is not so bad. Nevertheless, we would, as always, appreciate your thoughts about this. Please send your comments to ccjm@ccf.org.

JOHN D. CLOUGH, MD
Editor-in-Chief