



COPE Reaffirms Substantive Equivalency with Medicine

The Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE®) is pleased to announce that the COPE CE Accreditation system has reaffirmed Substantive Equivalency to the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) CME accreditation system, a status that COPE has proudly held since 2017.

Why this is important for Optometrists:

- COPE accredited CE is relevant, evidence-based, and independent of commercial bias, so you can learn without sitting through a marketing presentation.
- COPE accredited CE is based on the educational needs and professional practice gaps of optometrists, ensuring you receive the information you need to advance your skills and practice strategies.
- COPE accreditation means you will receive education equivalent to your colleagues in medicine

Why this is important for CE Providers:

- COPE's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited CE (SII) provide a safe harbor for industry support of optometric CE to help you secure educational grants for your CE activities.
 - COPE's SII were adopted from the ACCME and are followed by other health professions.
- COPE Accredited CE expands your network of potential learners:
 - COPE's Standards ensure integrity and high-quality CE that is free from commercial bias.
 - COPE Accredited CE is universally accepted by licensing agencies in the U.S. and Canada.

Why this is important for ARBO's Member Licensing Agencies:

- COPE accreditation ensures standardized, quality education regardless of where it is presented.
- COPE accredited CE provides confidence that your licensees are meeting the highest standards of continuing competence for patient protection and improved health outcomes.
- COPE accreditation is a tool that can be leveraged when seeking expanded scope of practice as it confirms that COPE accredited optometric CE is equivalent to medical CME.

For reference, CE/CME Accreditors may obtain Substantive Equivalency through the ACCME if they support CE/CME that:

- *Enhances physician performance.*
- *Is based on data describing physicians' educational needs.*
- *Has effectiveness assessed as it relates to physician performance or health status improvements, (measuring outcomes and determining if the educational objectives were met.)*
- *Is developed independent of commercial influence.*

For more information about the COPE CE Accreditation program, please reach out to Sierra Powell, Manager of Accreditation Services, at spowell@arbo.org or 704-970-2771.