**Gaps / Needs Definitions**

**Definitions**

**Practice Gap:** The difference between health care processes or outcomes observed in practice and those potentially achievable on the basis of current professional knowledge. The difference between the ACTUAL and the IDEAL. (What is the problem/ issue?)

**Educational Need:** The knowledge and training which will address the identified practice gap. (What education is needed to address the problem? Why does the gap exist?)

**Knowledge:**  A learner’s information on a particular subject, process or skill.  (The learner needs new or additional information.)

**Skills/Strategy:** The ability to utilize new knowledge, processes, strategies or skills. (The learner needs new abilities or skills.)

**Performance:** Putting into practice a change in behavior and measure the outcome/impact. (The learner needs to take a new action or make a change in practice behavior.)

***Identify the types of deficiencies/quality gaps identified (knowledge, competence, performance)*** –

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Is the need related to…** | **This would be a gap in…** |
| Giving physicians’ new knowledge? | Knowledge |
| Giving physician’s new abilities/strategies? | Competence |
| Helping physicians modify their practice? | Performance |

**Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment**

**Identifying Gaps in Knowledge, Competence and/or Performance-in-Practice  
Note: Identification should be completed by the Planning Committee.**

In accordance with UMass Chan Medical School OCME Mission, this educational activity must be designed to improve (1) physician competence, and/or (2) physician performance-in-practice, and/or 3) patient outcomes.

ACCME Definitions:

• **Competence:** ability to apply knowledge plus a strategy in practice when the opportunity presents  
• **Performance in Practice:** the application of new strategies or skills in the practice setting  
• **Gap:** the difference between what physicians are currently doing in practice and what is considered best or ideal practice

• **Patient Outcomes:** self-reported or data supported improvements in patient outcomes as a result of physician performance improvement

**Note**: Gaps may be based upon problems faced in practice, expert opinion, quality issues, hospital mandates, regulatory requirements, published literature, MOC, previous evaluation data from learners, department surveys or other identified sources.

The key to planning this CME activity is that you have clearly identified the ‘gap’. The gap is based on the

difference between what the learners **do now** in practice **versus what you want them to do based on best evidence** (also known as ‘Best Practice’).

Practice gaps are based on underlying causes, such as a need for *knowledge* about a particular topic, a need to improve *competence* (know when and how to apply new strategies in practice) and/or improved *performance* (such as adoption of new skills or behaviors).

**GAP ANALYSIS** - Definitions - **Practice Gap**: The difference between health care processes or outcomes observed in practice and those potentially achievable on the basis of current professional knowledge. The difference between the ACTUAL and the IDEAL. (What is the problem/ issue?)

**Educational Need**: The knowledge and training which will address the identified practice gap. (What education is needed to address the problem? Why does the gap exist?)