

American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
CME Resolution of Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy
(Rev December 5, 2005)

PREAMBLE

Standard 1: Independence

A CME provider must ensure that the following decisions were made free of the control of a commercial interest. The ACCME defines a “commercial interest” as any proprietary entity producing health care goods and services, with the exemption of non-profit or government organizations and non-health care related companies.

The society’s planning process for each activity includes:

- Identification of CME needs;
- Determination of educational objectives;
- Selection and presentation of content;
- Selection of all persons and organizations that will be in a position to control the content of the CME;
- Selection of educational methods;
- Evaluation of the activity

Standard 2: Resolution of Personal Conflicts of Interest

The provider must be able to show that everyone who is in a position to control the content of an education activity has disclosed all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest to the provider. The ACCME defines “relevant financial relationships” as financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months that create a conflict of interest.

An individual who refuses to disclose relevant financial relationships will be disqualified from being a planning committee member, a teacher, or an author of CME, and cannot have control of, or responsibility for, the development, management, presentation or evaluation of the CME activity.

The provider must have implemented a mechanism to identify and resolve all conflicts of interest prior to the education activity being delivered to learners.

What financial relationships need to be disclosed to the accredited provider?

Individuals need to disclose relationships with a commercial interest if both (a) the relationship is financial and occurred within the past 12 months and (b) the individual has the opportunity to affect the content of CME about the products or services of that commercial interest.

POLICY

ACOP Board of Trustees, CME Committee Members and Program Chairs

The Board of Trustees, CME Committee Members and all Program Chairs are required to complete a disclosure form within a 12 month period, even if there is no conflict to disclose. All forms are reviewed by the “CME Task Force”, which shall consist of the meeting co-chair, board CME liaison and two other committee members. If a COI cannot be resolved, the individual is disqualified from participating in any CME planning or discussion.

The CME Task Force is responsible for making sure the policy is implemented for each meeting. The task force will also work with management, the CME Committee and the Board to resolve conflicts for each CME activity.

CME Activity Faculty and Moderators

CME Faculty and Moderators are required to complete a disclosure form even if there is no conflict to disclose. If there is a financial relationship disclosed, the CME Task Force will decide if this relationship causes a COI based on the relevancy to the presentation. If a COI is determined, then that CME Faculty Member will be required to submit their lecture/slides, in advance, to be reviewed by the Session Moderator and/or Program Chair. Additional means for resolving conflicts include, but are not limited to: asking the speaker to avoid discussing areas where the conflict exists, requesting the speaker to base their talk on evidence-based reviews (where the conflict exists), and as a last resort remove them from the program.

The Moderators and Program Chair are responsible for insuring the content is valid and void of commercial bias. For those presenters who have a COI, the Moderator will be required to attest that the presentation was void of any commercial bias by submitting an additional evaluation.

In addition to continuing to publish the disclosures and nature of the relationships, the society will inform the learner that, “the following individuals had COIs and these conflicts have been resolved by the society.

If it is determined that there was commercial bias present during any session, including those where the Moderators/Program Chair or designated individuals have done everything possible to manage said conflict, the matter will be referred to the Board of Trustees for review and action.

Miscellaneous Policies

1. The society will not joint sponsor any activity with a commercial interest.
2. The society will further develop its COI policy with respect to enduring materials.
3. The society will only require disclosure on abstract senior authors.
4. Recognizing that the COI management policy will change regularly, the improvements to the policy will be reflected in Essential 2.5 (Evaluation of the overall CME program).
5. The Conflict of Interest Policy of the AOA will also be adhered to by the ACOP.