



Title/Subject: Conflict of Interest in Commercial Support and Continuing Medical Education

Applies to: faculty students staff Outside Interests

Policy System Process/Procedure Guideline/Standard Position Description

● **Introduction**

- **Historical/Contextual Overview:** The Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education activities for physicians. The same guidelines and procedures apply to both directly sponsored and jointly sponsored activities.
- **Reason for the Policy:** The intent of this policy is for the CME provider to identify and resolve any potential conflict of interest to ensure that all presentations are free from bias.
- **Scope:** Live Conferences and lectures, Serial Conferences (Grand Rounds, Case Conferences, M&M's, Tumor Boards, etc.), Faculty Development Courses, Skill-based Workshops, Enduring Materials (Monographs, Computer based courses, video courses, internet activities, journal CME, etc.), All planners and faculty participating in any CME activity sponsored by COM

● **Policy Statement:**

In accordance with the ACCME's *Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities*, it is the policy of Texas A&M College of Medicine (COM) to ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all its sponsored educational activities. All planners and faculty participating in any CME activity sponsored by the COM must disclose to all learners the existence of any financial or other relationships with any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing healthcare goods or services consumed by or used on, patients.

Based on the information provided by activity planners, COM will take steps to identify and resolve any potential conflict of interest related to planned activities. However, it remains for the audience to make the final determination as to whether the presentations reflect a possible bias in either the exposition or the conclusions presented.

● **Procedure/Guidelines**

- Each activity planner and all speakers must submit a signed disclosure form to the CME Office with each application.
- Faculty disclosures must be made known to participants **prior** to the activity and the disclosure statement included in brochures, slides, or syllabi. Written confirmation that this has occurred will be maintained by the CME Office.
- A written disclosure by each author/faculty must be included in each enduring material.

Authority: CME Advisory Committee

Policy/Process POC: OEQI with Courtney Dodge

Effective Date: November 2016

Review/Revision Schedule: November 2020

Indexed as: Continuing Medical Education, CME, COI



- Materials that are part of CME activities such as power-point slides, abstracts and handouts cannot contain any advertising, trade name or product-group message. Activity planners will be provided guidelines for speaker presentations upon initiation of program planning.
- Advertisements and promotional materials will not be visible at any time on computer-based, audio and video recording activities accredited for CME by COM.
- **Compliance:** Any activity planning or faculty member who refuses to disclose financial or other significant relationships will be barred from participation in the planning and/or execution of the CME activity.
- **Resources:**
 - **Definitions:**

Financial Interests – Financial interests or other relationships can include such things as grants or research support, employee, consultant, major stockholder, member of Speakers’ Bureau, etc.

Commercial Interest – Any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. This definition excludes providers of clinical service directly to patients, unless the provider of clinical service is owned, or controlled by, an ACCME-defined commercial interest.
 - **Related Policies, Processes, and Guidelines:**

CME Office of CME Policies and Standard Administrative Procedures
Office of CME Guidelines for Speaker Presentations

● **Revision History:**

Date of Change	Authority	Summary of Changes	Document Location
<i>August 7, 2019</i>	<i>Policy team</i>	<i>Updated and converted to new format.</i>	<i>COM Policies and Procedures Team Drive in Google</i>

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