



Office of Continuing Medical Education
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Relevant Financial Relationship Policy

Identification, Mitigation, and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships in CME

Resource: [Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education | ACCME](#)

The Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education are designed to ensure that accredited continuing education serves the needs of patients and the public, is based on valid content, and is free from commercial influence. The Standards were released in December 2020, replacing the Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities.

Collect information from all planners, faculty, and others who will be in positions to control content. Ask them to provide information about all their financial relationships with ineligible companies over the **previous 24 months**; Review the disclosed relationships; Determine which financial relationships are relevant to the content of the continuing education activity and mitigate those relevant financial relationships.

Requirements of our Activity Directors

All participants who serve as planners, teachers, faculty, speakers, or instructors in any accredited CME activity must sign our Disclosure of Information [relevant-financial-relationship-form.pdf](#) and email it to CMEOffice@marshall.edu. **All forms must be submitted by the deadline of January 31st each year.**

After receiving the RFR form, the CME Office will mitigate it and send an email with instructions to participants who submitted ineligible companies.

Speaker Presentation Slides or Materials

Presentations must **not** use logos or trademarks, educational materials that are part of a continuing medical education activity cannot contain any advertising, trade names, or product group messages. This especially applies to speakers who are from an ineligible company.



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Owners and Employees of Ineligible Companies

Resource: [Standard 3: Identify, Mitigate, and Disclose Relevant Financial Relationships | ACCME](#)

ACCME clearly defined that you must **exclude owners or employees of ineligible companies**: Review the information about financial relationships to identify individuals who are owners or employees of ineligible companies. These individuals must be excluded from controlling content or participating as planners or faculty in accredited education. There are three exceptions to this exclusion—employees of ineligible companies can participate as planners or faculty in these specific situations:

1. When the content of the activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company.
2. When the content of the accredited activity is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations.
3. When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.

Criteria for Disclosure of Financial Relationships

Conflict of interest applies to any speaker, moderator, facilitator, activity director, peer reviewer, planner, activity administrator, or any other individual who is involved in the planning, implementation, or evaluation of the CME activity.

An “Ineligible company” is any entity producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products/services used by or on patients. (For specific examples of ineligible companies visit acme.org/standards) Examples of financial relationships include employee, researcher, consultant, advisor, speaker, independent contractor (including contracted research), royalties or patent beneficiary, executive role, and ownership interest. Individual stocks and stock options should be disclosed. When a person divests her/himself of a relationship with an ineligible company, it is no longer considered a conflict of interest. Still, it must be disclosed to the learners for **24 months**. **By ACCME requirements, failure, or refusal to provide disclosure information promptly will result in the disqualification of any CME approvals.**