

Identifying and Resolving Conflicts of Interest in CME

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I. DEFINITIONS

Financial Relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interests (i.e., stocks, stock options or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit.

Financial benefits are usually associated with roles such as employment, management position, independent contractor (including contracted research), consulting, speaking and teaching, membership on advisory committees or review panels, board membership, and other activities from which remuneration is received, or expected.

Relationships of the person involved in the CME activity include financial relationships of a spouse or partner.

Relevant financial relationships are financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months that create a conflict of interest.

Conflict of interests occur when an individual has an opportunity to affect CME content about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a financial relationship; whereby an observer may perceive that their recommendations may be influenced by considerations of personal gain, financial or otherwise. **A conflict of interest depends upon the situation and not on the character or actions of the individual.**

II. IDENTIFYING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

CHKD identifies conflicts of interest through an analysis of the information disclosed and an understanding of the planned content of the CME activity. Circumstances and context are factors to be considered.

Ideally, full disclosure is made and analyzed at the time of application to the CHKD CME Committee. When this is not possible, it is expected that full disclosure statements be made within in a timeframe considered reasonable to allow for discovery and resolution of a conflict of interest.

III. RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. CHKD CME requires that all individuals involved in planning, authoring or presenting a CME activity complete a **Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form**. In rare situations in which circumstances prevent this from being possible, it is acceptable to discover conflicts of interest in planning sessions or through

- other written notifications such as e-mail. Any such discoveries should be documented in the activity file.
2. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms will be reviewed prior to the CME activity by CHKD CME and if conflicts of interest are identified the appropriate action will be determined. The resolution process may include one or all of the following: CME committee, course director, or planning committee.

Modes of Resolution

- A. Alter control over CME content.** Adjust a presenter's control of CME content to eliminate the appearance of bias related to the products and services of the commercial interest.
 1. Arrange an advance peer review to determine if content is evidence based or if bias can be detected.
 2. Limit presentation so that financial relationship(s) is/are not relevant.
 3. Select another speaker to control the subject of conflict.
 4. Change the focus of the CME activity.
 5. Limit presentation to a report of facts and pair with another presenter who will make recommendations.
- B. Alter the financial relationship (i.e. discontinue contracted services).**
- C. Disqualify the speaker, author or planner and select a replacement.**