

Mechanism for Resolution of Commercial Conflict of Interest

1. “Conflict” is defined as disclosure of any support from commercial interest within the past 12 months relevant to an activity topic.

Support can include payment for speaking activities, sponsored research and/or any item from the following ACCME reference. “Financial relationships (include) . . . benefits by receiving salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, honoraria, ownership interest (e.g. stocks, stock options, or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit.”

Re: “Identifying and Resolving Conflicts of Interest in CME,” ACCME, Sept 2004, p 4 of 4.

2. Conflicts will be revealed to the program’s Executive Group (EG) while reviewing an application for activity Cat. 1 certification.

EG reviews and actions on speaker and planner disclosures will be recorded in the minutes of an EG meeting.

3. Conflicts of reviewed disclosers not resolved by the EG will be referred for peer or institutional review. Specifically:

- **Activity Planners and other Advisory Group Members having content knowledge and discloser familiarity.**
- **Extramural consultants having significant activity content knowledge and discloser familiarity.**
- **Institutional Administrators, or their designees, e.g.:**
 - Director of Medical Education**
 - Vice President for Medical Affairs**
- **Relevant scientific paper or article citation by the disclosing author - already peer-reviewed and judged to be commercially disinterested.**

4. Presenters, speakers, authors, planners and reviewers can be asked to submit reference(s) supporting their perception of irrelevant conflict.

5. Notice of conflict resolution or failure to resolve will appear in the minutes of an EG meeting. Failure to resolve a commercial conflict issue will disqualify the reviewed person from participating in a particular CME activity.