

APPENDIX B

These policies and definitions supplement the updated Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure the Independence of CME Activities (“SCS”) (page 19)

Relevant to SCS2 (Identifying and Resolving Conflicts of Interest)

Financial Relationships: Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interest (e.g., 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. The Society considers relationships of the person involved in the CME activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner.

With respect to personal financial relationships, ‘contracted research’ includes research funding where the institution gets the grant and manages the funds and the person is the principal or named investigator on the grant.

Conflict of Interest: Circumstances create a conflict of interest 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.

The Society considers financial relationships to create actual conflicts of interest in CME when individuals have both a financial relationship with a commercial interest and the opportunity to affect the content of CME about the products or services of that commercial interest. The Society considers “content of CME about the products or services of that commercial interest” to include content about specific agents/devices, but not necessarily about the class of agents/devices, and not necessarily content about the whole disease class in which those agents/devices are used.

With respect to financial relationships with commercial interests, when a person divests themselves of a relationship it is immediately not relevant to conflicts of interest but it must be disclosed to the learners for 12 months.

Relevant to SCS3 (Appropriate Use of Commercial Support)

Definition of Commercial Support: Commercial Support is financial, or in-kind, contributions given by a commercial interest, which is used to pay all or part of the costs of a CME activity.

The Society does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be commercial interests. For the purposes of eligibility, the Society considers the following types of organizations eligible for accreditation and free to control the content of CME

(Standard 1):

- Liability insurance providers
- Health insurance providers
- Group medical practices
- For-profit hospitals
- For profit rehabilitation centers
- For-profit nursing homes

Element 3.12 of the Updated Standards for Commercial Support applies only to physicians whose official residence is in the United States.

Relevant to SCS4 (Appropriate Management of Commercial Promotion)

Commercial exhibits and advertisements are promotional activities and not continuing medical education. Therefore, monies paid by commercial interests to providers for these promotional activities are not considered to be 'commercial support'. However, accredited providers are expected to fulfill the requirements of SCS 4 and to use sound fiscal and business practices with respect to promotional activities.

Relevant to SCS6 (Disclosure to Learners)

Disclosure of information about provider and faculty relationships may be disclosed verbally to participants at a CME activity. When such information is disclosed verbally at a CME activity, providers must be able to supply the Society with written verification that appropriate verbal disclosure occurred at the activity. With respect to this written verification:

1. A representative of the provider who was in attendance at the time of the verbal disclosure must attest, in writing:
 - a) that verbal disclosure did occur; and
 - b) itemize the content of the disclosed information (SCS 6.1); or that there was nothing to disclose (SCS 6.2)
2. The documentation that verifies that adequate verbal disclosure did occur must be completed within one month of the activity.

The provider's acknowledgment of commercial support as required by SCS 6.3 and 6.4 may state the name, mission, and areas of clinical involvement of the company or institution and may include corporate logos and slogans, if they are not product promotional in nature.