

ICHP Educational Conflict of Interest Policy

Background and Purpose:

All continuing pharmacy education (CPE) activities should provide for an in-depth presentation with fair and full disclosure and equitable balance. Appropriate topics and learning activities shall be distinguished from topics and learning activities which are promotional or appear to be intended for purpose of endorsing either a specific commercial drug or other commercial product (as contrasted with the generic product/entity and its contents or the general therapeutic area it addresses), or a specific commercial service (as contrasted with the general service area and/or the aspects or problems of professional practice it addresses). A commercial interest is an ineligible company defined as any proprietary entity producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing health care products used by or on patients, with the exception of non-profit or government organizations and non-health care related companies. Presentations must give a balanced view of therapeutic options. Use of generic names will contribute to this impartiality. If the CPE educational material or content includes trade names, where available trade names from several companies should be used, not just trade names from a single company.

Policy:

Disclosure - An individual must disclose to ICHP as the ACPE accredited provider and to learners all financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies prior to the beginning of the educational activity. ICHP requires all planning committee members, faculty, panel participants, and content reviewers to sign a conflict of interest form (Appendix A) and submit a current curriculum vitae.

Disclosure should be described in the slide presentation, usually the second slide (if live presentation) and in any handout. For an individual with no financial relationship(s) the learners must be informed that no financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies exist.

Disclosure due to a relationship with an ineligible company is required if both (a) the relationship is financial and occurred within the past 24 months and (b) the individual has the opportunity to affect the content of CPE about the products or services of that commercial interest.

Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving 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 for which remuneration is received or expected.

ACPE considers relationships of the person involved in the CPE activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner.

Conflict Resolution - If there is a relevant financial relationship, the conflict must be resolved prior to the activity. Resolution may take the form of content review by one or more members of the planning committee who have no identified conflicts of interest, review by an unbiased third party or review by ICHP staff involved in educational planning. The content review must find no bias or commercialism within the presentation content or home-study materials.

Conflict Disqualification - Anyone who refuses to sign a conflict of interest declaration may not be involved in the activity as a planner, faculty or panelist.