

Conflict of Interest

This resource is intended to assist BOC Approved Providers in ensuring that presenters disclose all actual and potential conflicts of interest. The purpose of a program cannot be the promotion of goods and services to participants.

Standard: Section 1.3.2

The purpose of a program cannot be the promotion of goods and services to the participants.

Standard: Section 2.5

Make public potential and actual conflicts of interest and financial gain associated with any programs, presenters or providers. Disclosure of potential conflict for program sponsors must also be addressed. This includes, at a minimum, identifying any and all sponsors in printed program materials.

Purpose

The purpose of this resource is to ensure that BOC Approved Providers and their presenters disclose all actual and potential conflicts of interest. It is important for participants at educational activities to be aware of any and all conflicts. Whenever a presenter has a conflict of interest, he or she shall declare the conflict with the BOC Approved Provider and at the beginning of the presentation. Disclosure of potential conflict for program sponsors must also be addressed. The purpose of a program cannot be the promotion of goods and services to participants. Continuing education providers must disclose financial gain, commercial support and confirm the purpose of the program is not to promote goods or services to participants.

Conflict of Interest Definition

Conflicting interest or a conflict of interest occurs when a person's personal interest can influence his or her duties. A conflict of interest is defined as any social, professional or economic relationship with individuals or a matter at hand that could affect judgment and result in an outcome.

Conflicts of interest can have negative consequences for tasks which require objectivity and fairness from those involved. Due to conflict, professional judgment may suffer, including conducting or reporting research. A conflict of interest exists even if no unethical or improper act results from it. A conflict of interest can undermine confidence in the presenter or profession. The failure of fiduciary responsibility is a key concept in defining conflict of interest situations.

Conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, financial interests and nonofficial relationships that may impact personal benefit.

Examples of Conflict

- Healthcare providers and medical organizations may compromise their professional responsibilities by pursuing private financial gain
- Pharmaceutical companies have paid physicians to promote off-label uses of their products through a number of different avenues
- A volunteer who has the authority to award a grant to an organization for which he/she sits on the board and he/she can gain financially from the award
- An employee chooses a supplier, and one of the candidates is a family member
- An employee who receives gifts, personal payments or services from suppliers or customers is in a position of conflicting interest
- A researcher or family member participating in research owned by a business in which the faculty member holds a financial interest
- A researcher participating in research developed by that researcher
- A researcher who wishes to recruit a subject who is also a student, an employee, a colleague or a subordinate of the researcher

Directions

An effective and responsible conflict of interest policy should clearly specify the relationships and activities that are acceptable, those that are prohibited and provide clear guidelines on how to make certain all such arrangements are transparent.

Create a transparent system where conflicts of interest for speakers, providers or sponsors can be declared. Each speaker shall disclose any personal interest which he/she may have in any business which would be in conflict to the goals or objectives of the BOC Approved Provider or presentation. This should enable your speakers to announce a conflict of interest, allowing them to provide assurances about their truthful and objective conduct. This system could be as simple as filling out a speaker form and supplying it to the BOC Approved Provider as well as declaring conflict at the beginning of their presentation. Declaring conflicting interest for sponsors may be disclosed by identifying any and all sponsors in printed program materials.

Example Slides

Provider Disclaimer

- ▶ In compliance with continuing education requirements, all presenters must disclose any financial or other associations with the manufacturers of commercial products, suppliers of commercial services, or commercial supporters as well as any use of unlabeled product(s) or product(s) under investigational use.
- ▶ *Company Name*, event committee, and the presenters for this seminar do not have financial or other associations with the manufacturers of commercial products, suppliers of commercial services, or commercial supporters.
- ▶ This presentation does not involve the unlabeled use of a product or product under investigational use.
- ▶ There was no commercial support for this activity.

Provider Conflict

- ▶ Thank you to our symposium sponsors
 - ▶ ABC Clinic
 - ▶ Memorial Medical Center
 - ▶ Valley Bone & Joint Orthopedics
- ▶ The appearance of advertisements is not a warranty, endorsement, or approval of the products or services advertised or of their effectiveness, quality, or safety.



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Presenter Conflict

<h4>Conflict</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Jon Doe, President of Alpha Wave Technologies<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ “Wave of the Future”▶ The statements and opinions contained in this program are solely mine.▶ Concussion research presented today is my own. Evaluation and treatment recommendations are solely based on my own research.	<h4>No Conflict</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ The views expressed in these slides and the today’s discussion are mine▶ My views may not be the same as the views of my company’s clients or my colleagues▶ Participants must use discretion when using the information contained in this presentation
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