

## **Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest\***

### **For Use in Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development Programs at the University of Calgary**

In principle, the audience for any educational intervention should be aware of any potential biases a teacher may have in the presentation of material. In many events, such as sponsored visiting lectureships or conferences underwritten by educational grants from industry, there is an explicit recognition of the nature of the sponsorship. Armed with this knowledge, an audience can properly evaluate the content of the presentations or teaching. There may, however, be undisclosed relationships with industry, which members of the Faculty quite legitimately hold, which are not as readily visible and which may yet give a perception of bias. Such relationships can include, but are not limited to, holding stock in pharmaceutical companies, involvement with industry advisory boards, or participation in industry-sponsored clinical research.

To appropriately inform audiences participating in University of Calgary Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development events, the Continuing Medical Education Committee recommends that speakers be asked to disclose any involvement with industry that may potentially influence the presentation of the educational material. Such disclosure is consistent with CMA Policy, which states: "CME/CPD organizers are responsible for ensuring the scientific validity, objectivity and completeness of CME/CPD activities. Organizers must disclose to the participants at their CME/CPD events any financial affiliations with manufacturers of products mentioned at the event or with manufacturers of competing products."<sup>1</sup> This is also a requirement of the accreditation guidelines of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) in the United States and is becoming increasingly common at meetings in the US and in several leading medical journals.

*Disclosure may be done verbally, using a slide or a handout at the beginning of a presentation. Examples of relationships which should be disclosed include but are not limited to:*

- any direct financial interest in a company whose interests are in the area(s) covered by the educational material ("the Company")
- investments held by the speaker in the Company
- membership on the Company's Advisory Board or similar committee
- current or recent participation in a clinical trial sponsored by the Company
- assisting in the design of clinical studies concerning the use of products manufactured by the Company.
- participating in clinical studies using products produced by the Company.
- research by the speaker sponsored by the Company
- paid speaker by the Company.
- the speaker holds a patent for a product referred to in the presentation or marketed by the Company

To ensure that audiences receive complete information, speakers who have no involvement with industry should inform the audience that they have nothing to disclose, i.e., cannot identify any potential conflict of interest.

Where programs are logistically managed by the Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development, University of Calgary, speakers will be reminded to prepare disclosure statements and include them in their presentations, and it is recommended that this practice be followed by all Faculty members engaging in CME activity, regardless of organizer. It is the sole responsibility of the individual speaker to make such disclosure **to the audience** at the time of the presentation. ***Disclosure statements need not be submitted to the CME office or other organizers, nor will the organizers assume any responsibility to disclose on behalf of speakers.***

Program brochures and handout material should include the following statement: "In keeping with accreditation guidelines speakers participating in this event have been asked to disclose to the audience any involvement with industry or other organizations that may potentially influence the presentation of the educational material. Disclosure may be done verbally or using a slide."

Reference:

1. Physicians and the Pharmaceutical Industry (Update 2001), CMAJ 2001, 164(9):1339-1341.  
<http://www.cma.ca/inside/policybase/index.htm>

\*We acknowledge the work done by Dalhousie's CME Department who created the prototype for this policy.  
Date: July 9, 2007



FACULTY OF MEDICINE | UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

# Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest†

Program: <insert program title>

The Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development, University of Calgary, requires all presenters and members of planning committees to complete this Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest form. The Canadian Medical Association Policy, "Physicians and the Pharmaceutical Industry (Update 2007)" indicates that,

CME/CPD organizers and individual physician presenters are responsible for ensuring the scientific validity, objectivity and completeness of CME/CPD activities. Organizers and individual presenters must disclose to the participants at their CME/CPD events any financial affiliations with manufacturers of products mentioned at the event or with manufacturers of competing products.

The intent of this policy is not to prohibit speakers from presenting, but rather to inform the audience of any possible bias that speakers may have.

Please check the statement that applies to you:

- A: I do not have any affiliation (financial or otherwise) with a commercial organization that may have a direct or indirect connection to the content of my presentation.
- B: I have/had an affiliation (financial or otherwise) with a commercial organization that may have a direct or indirect connection to the content of my presentation.
- C: I am a member of an advisory board or similar committee with a commercial organization that may have a direct or indirect connection to the content of my presentation.
- D: I am a member of a speakers bureau for industry
- E: I am currently participating, or have you recently participated, in a clinical trial sponsored by a commercial organization that may have a direct or indirect connection to the content of my presentation.
- F: I have received payment, grants or an honorarium from a commercial organization that may have a direct or indirect connection to the content of my presentation.
- G: I hold a patent for a product referred to in the CME program or marketed by a commercial organization that may have a direct or indirect connection to the content of my presentation.

If you checked any of the above statements (other than "A"), please indicate the commercial organization(s) that you have/had affiliations with, and briefly explain what connection you have/had with that organization. You must verbally disclose this information to your audience at the beginning of your presentation:

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(If necessary, please attach a second page)

### Acknowledgment:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that the above information is accurate.  
[Please Print Name]

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed form to <insert Conference Coordinator's name> or by fax 403-270-2330. The Office of Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development, U of C, appreciates your cooperation in this matter.

†The basis of this document was developed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPS).