ACME Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities

Criterion 7: The provider develops activities/educational interventions independent of commercial interests. A CME provider must ensure that the following decisions were made free of the control of a commercial interest: identification of CME needs, determination of educational objectives, selection and presentation of content, selection of all persons and organizations in a position to control the content of the CME activity, selection of educational methods, and evaluation of the activity.

Standard 2: Resolution of Personal Conflicts of Interest
- The CME Provider must be able to show that everyone in a position to control the content of an educational activity has disclosed all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest to the provider.
- The ACCME defines “relevant financial relationships” as financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months that create a conflict of interest.
- The ACCME defines a commercial interest as any entity producing, marketing, reselling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients.
- Disclosure forms must be completed prior to the activity by all course chairs, presenters, authors, moderators, panel members and/or planning committee members.
- If a conflict of interest exists, it must be resolved prior to the education activity being delivered to the learners.
- Individuals who refuse to disclose will be disqualified from participating in the activity.
- Disclosure is provided to learners before the activity through the written statement in the course syllabus and verbal disclosure by the speaker before presentation.

Standard 5: Content and Format without Commercial Bias
- CME activities must promote improvements or quality in healthcare and not a specific proprietary business interest of a commercial interest.
- Presentations give a balanced view of therapeutic options. Use of generic names will contribute to this impartiality. If the CME educational material or content includes trade names, several companies should be used, not just trade names from a single company.

Standard 6: Disclosures Relevant to Potential Commercial Bias
- An individual must disclose to learners any relevant financial relationships to include the following: name of the individual, name of the commercial interests, nature of the relationship.
- For an individual with no relevant financial relationships, the learners must be informed that no relevant financial relationships exist.
- The source of all support from commercial interests must be disclosed to learners.
- Disclosure may never include use of trade names or a product-group message
- Information must be disclosed to learners prior to the beginning of the educational activity.

Please insert a disclosure slide at the beginning of your presentation

DISCLOSURE

I disclose that I have no relevant financial relationships with commercial interests

OR

I disclose the following relevant financial relationships: (Please state name of commercial interest(s) and nature of relationships)