

Policy on Disclosure

As an Accredited provider of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), it is the policy of Oakstone Publishing (Oakstone) to insure balance, independence, objectivity and scientific rigor in all its education activities. **Everyone in a position to control the content of an education activity must** disclose all financial relationships with ineligible companies that over the past 24 months. The ACCME defines ineligible companies as those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. There is no minimum financial threshold; faculty must disclose all financial relationships, regardless of the amount, with ineligible companies. Oakstone requires faculty to disclose regardless of whether they view the financial relationships as relevant to the education. Oakstone Publishing ensures that ineligible companies have no control over the planning, development, delivery, or evaluation of accredited continuing education activities.

Oakstone requires a disclosure summary of those involved in the development of content including planners, presenters, authors, medical reviewers, and editors to be provided to learners prior to delivery of educational content in any format. In live formats, disclosures must be made visually and audibly with introductory slides, as well as in a print handout/syllabus. Disclosure summaries must appear with the required front matter in all enduring formats including Internet-hosted activities, web-based introductory slides, and in any accompanying print materials. Disclosure to learners will include the name of the ineligible company and the nature of the relationship, or a statement that no relevant financial relationships exist. Disclosure to learners will also include a statement that all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated in accordance with ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence.

The intent of this disclosure is not to prevent individuals with ineligible companies from making presentations. The intent is to assist Oakstone in resolving conflicts of interest and to provide learners with information on which they can make their own judgments regarding any bias. Although Oakstone reviews and resolves potential conflicts of interest, it remains for the audience to determine whether the presenter's interests or relationships may influence the delivery of content with regard to exposition or conclusion.

Disclosure Collection and Review Process

All individuals in a position to control the content of an accredited continuing education activity must submit disclosure information prior to engagement in the activity.

Disclosure information will be collected and reviewed by Oakstone Publishing, which will determine whether any disclosed financial relationships with ineligible companies are relevant to the content of the educational activity.

If financial relationships are determined to be relevant, they will be mitigated in accordance with the ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence prior to the individual assuming their role in the activity and before educational content is delivered to learners.

Participation of Employees of Ineligible Companies

Employees or owners of ineligible companies are not permitted to control or influence the content of accredited continuing education activities. Individuals who are employed by or have ownership interest in ineligible companies may not serve as planners, faculty, authors, reviewers, or in any other role that allows them to control the content of the activity.

Employees of ineligible companies may participate as learners or in non-content control roles, as permitted by ACCME Standards.

Ineligible company is any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be an ineligible company.

All Financial Relationships The ACCME requires anyone in control of accredited content to disclose all financial relationships to the accredited provider. The ACCME has not set a minimal dollar amount—any amount, regardless of how small, creates the incentive to maintain or increase the value of the relationship. Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria for promotional speakers' bureau, 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.

Financial Disclosure The provider must be able to show that ***everyone who is in a position to control the content of an educational activity has disclosed all financial relationships with ineligible companies*** to the provider.

Fair and Balanced Planners/presenting faculty/authors are required to organize fair and balanced presentations that are objective and scientifically rigorous. **All slides must be free of product pictures, advertising, corporate logo, trade name or a product-group message of an ACCME-defined ineligible company.**

Use of Generic Vs Trade Names

Planners/presenting faculty/authors are to use scientific or generic names when referring to products in their lectures or enduring materials. Should it be necessary to use a trade name, then the trade names of all similar products or those within a class should be used.

It is preferable to avoid the use of brand names.

Commercial Support Influence

Planners/presenting faculty/authors are not permitted to receive any direct remuneration or gifts from the commercial supporter(s) of this activity as it relates to this specific activity, nor should they be subject to direct input from a commercial supporter regarding the content of the presentations.