



This information applies to MSNJ Accredited Providers as well. The MSNJ CME Accreditation Program follows the ACCME's Standards for Commercial Support exactly.

## A Message to ACCME Accredited Providers

### Current definitions and interpretations

ACCME has affirmed the following as ACCME's current definitions and interpretations. ACCME will review these definitions and interpretations from time to time and reserves the right to modify them as appropriate. Providers should refer to these definitions and interpretations when designing their programs of continuing medical education.

#### 1. Definitions

- a. **Commercial Support** is financial, or in-kind, contributions given by a commercial interest, which is used to pay all or part of the costs of a CME activity. *(relevant to Standard 3)*
  - b. **Conflict of Interest:** Circumstances create a conflict of interest when an individual has an opportunity to affect CME content about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a financial relationship. *(relevant to Standard 2)*
  - c. **Financial Relationships:** Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a 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 from which remuneration is received, or expected. ACCME considers relationships of the person involved in the CME activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner. *(relevant to Standard 2)*
2. The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be commercial interests. For the purposes of eligibility, the ACCME considers the following types of organizations eligible for accreditation and free to control the content of CME *(Standard 1)*:
- Liability insurance providers
  - Health insurance providers
  - Group medical practices
  - For-profit hospitals
  - For profit rehabilitation centers
  - For-profit nursing homes
3. With respect to personal **financial relationships**, 'contracted research' includes research funding where the institution gets the grant and manages the funds and the person is the principal or named investigator on the grant. *(relevant to Definition of Financial Relationship and SCS 2.1)*
4. With respect to **financial relationships** with commercial interests, when a person divests themselves of a relationship it is immediately not relevant to conflicts of interest but it must be disclosed to the learners for 12 months. *(relevant to SCS 2.1 and SCS 2.3)*
5. The ACCME considers **financial relationships** to create actual conflicts of interest in CME when individuals have both a financial relationship with a commercial interest and the opportunity to affect the content of CME about the products or services of that commercial

interest. The ACCME considers “content of CME about the products or services of that commercial interest” to include content about specific agents/devices, but not necessarily about the class of agents/devices, and not necessarily content about the whole disease class in which those agents/devices are used. *(relevant to SCS 2.1)*

6. Element 3.12 of the ACCME's Updated Standards for Commercial Support applies only to physicians whose official residence is in the United States.
7. **Commercial exhibits and advertisements** are promotional activities and not continuing medical education. Monies paid by commercial interests to providers for this promotional opportunity are not considered to be ‘commercial support’ of CME. Accredited providers are expected to fulfill the requirements of SCS Standard 4 and to use sound fiscal and business practices with respect to these exhibits. *(relevant to Standard 4)*
8. The **acknowledgment of commercial support** may state the name, mission, and areas of clinical involvement of the company or institution and may include corporate logos and slogans, if they are not product promotional in nature. *(relevant to SCS 6.3)*
9. Providers must be able to supply ACCME with written verification that appropriate verbal disclosure occurred at a CME activity. With respect to the documentation of verbal disclosure at CME activities *(relevant to Standard 6)*:
  - A representative of the provider who was in attendance at the time of the verbal disclosure must attest, in writing: (a) that verbal disclosure did occur; and (b) itemize the content of the disclosed information (SCS 6.1); or that there was nothing to disclose (SCS 6.2); and
  - The documentation that verifies that adequate verbal disclosure did occur must be completed within one month of the activity.

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