

Relevant Financial Relationships

The ACCME focuses on financial relationships with commercial interests in the 24-month period preceding the time that the individual is being asked to assume a role controlling content of the CME activity. The ACCME has not set a minimal dollar amount for relationships to be significant. Inherent in any amount is the incentive to maintain or increase the value of the relationship. The ACCME defines “relevant financial relationships” as financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 24 months that create a conflict of interest.

Ineligible Company

The ACCME defines an “ineligible company” as those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

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.

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. The ACCME considers relationships of the person involved in the CME activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner.