**Conflict of Interest (COI) Disclosure Form**

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| --- | --- |
| Name of Discloser |       |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  Instructor | [ ]  Planner/Manager |

Medical Education Resources (MER) has a policy to ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all our continuing education activities. We must disclose to the audience any real or apparent conflicts of interest (COI) with ineligible companies (previously known as commercial interests) whose products or services may be mentioned in the activity.

**In December of 2020, the ACCME released their new standards, Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, which evolved from the previously identified Standards for Commercial Support. This COI form reflects these new standards that will take effect on January 1, 2022.** Companies that are ineligible to be accredited in the ACCME System (now known as ***ineligible companies***) are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. Examples of such organizations include:

* Advertising, marketing, or communication firms whose clients are ineligible companies
* Bio-medical startups that have begun a governmental regulatory approval process
* Compounding pharmacies that manufacture propriety compounds
* Device manufacturers or distributors
* Diagnostic labs that sell propriety products
* Growers, distributors, manufacturers or sellers of medical foods and dietary supplements
* Manufacturers of health-related wearable products
* Pharmaceutical companies or distributors
* Pharmacy benefit managers
* Reagent manufacturers or sellers

**Owners and Employees of Ineligible Companies**

The ***owners*** and ***employees*** of ineligible companies are considered to have unresolvable financial relationships and must be excluded from participating as planners or faculty and must not be allowed to influence or control any aspect of the planning, delivery, or evaluation of accredited continuing education.

Are you employed by an ineligible company?

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

*Please check one of the following:*

[ ]  I do NOT have a conflict of interest (COI) with ineligible companies within the past 24 months whose products or services may be mentioned in the activity.

[ ]  I do have a conflict of interest (COI) with ineligible companies within the past 24 months whose products or services may be mentioned in the activity. Please list the names of ineligible companies below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ] Grants/Research Support |       |
| [ ] Consulting Fees (eg. Ad boards) |       |
| [ ] Speakers’ Bureau |       |
| [ ] Ownership Interest/Shareholder  |       |
| [ ] Royalty/Patent Holder |       |

**For Faculty and Planners, please attest to the following:**

*If you reported relationships above, will the relationships impact your ability to present an unbiased presentation?*

 [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

*Please check the following:*

[ ]  I agree to disclose any unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs or products referenced in my presentation/materials.

[ ]  The content/presentation with which I am involved will promote improvements in healthcare and will not promote a specific proprietary business interest of a commercial interest. My content/presentation will be fair-balanced, evidence-based and unbiased.

[ ]  I have not and will not accept any honoraria, additional payments, or reimbursements specific to this activity from any ineligible company.

[ ]  I understand that to resolve any COI, MER will review my content/presentation prior to the activity, and I will provide content and resources as required.

[ ]  If I am providing recommendations involving clinical medicine, they will be based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for their indications and contraindications in the care of patients. All scientific research referred to, reported or used in support of justification of patient care recommendations will conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis.

[ ]  If I am discussing specific healthcare products or services, I will use generic names to the extent possible. If I need to use trade names, I will use trade names from several companies when available, and not just trade names from any single company.

[ ]  If I am presenting research funded by a commercial interest, the information presented will be based on generally accepted scientific principles and methods and will not promote the commercial interests of the commercial interest.

**I have carefully read, considered, and agree to each item in this form, and have completed it to the best of my ability.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature of reporting individual      | Date      |

**ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education**

As an ACCME, ANCC and ACPE accredited provider, MER requires that faculty members comply with the Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. We will be disclosing to participants if this activity is supported by an educational grant from a commercial interest. As a faculty member, you are required to disclose any personal financial interest or relationship that you may have with any ineligible company or the manufacturer(s) of any commercial product that is discussed in the activity.

MER has implemented a process that requires everyone who is in a position to control the content of an activity to disclose all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest. In addition, should it be determined that a COI exists, this will need to be resolved prior to the activity.

We will utilize the information reported on this form to 1) determine if a conflict exists, 2) resolve the conflict by initiating a content validation process, and 3) advise learners of this information.

**Please note that the ACCME standards require all providers to disqualify instructors, planners and managers that do not supply this information.**

**Guidelines for Content Development**

This educational activity must follow the standards for CME established by the ACCME, AMA, ANCC, ACPE and FDA. Accordingly, please adhere to the following guidelines:

* Content should cover and teach to the learning objectives
* Content must be scientifically rigorous, present a fair-balanced discussion of all therapeutic options and products, be evidence based, and unbiased
* As much as possible, the content should present generic names of products. If trade names must be used, the names of multiple products should be used for balance
* Content must be free from commercial bias, it should not advance the proprietary interests of any commercial company
* MER advises that any unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs or products discussed in the content be disclosed to the audience in either the content or verbally at the time of presentation
* Any training or utilization by a commercial interest (eg. Speakers’ bureau) will not in any way include the promotional aspects or industry slides in the content of a continuing education presentation
* Slides or handout materials must not contain any **commercial graphic, logo, or product message**
* All published data, reference studies and articles cited in the content must be properly referenced on slides and handout materials
* If providing recommendations involving clinical medicine, all recommendations should be based on evidence that is accepted within the professions of medicine as adequate justification for their indications and contraindications in the care of patients
* All scientific research referred to, reported or used in support of justification of patient care recommendations should conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis

**Glossary of Terms**

**Ineligible Company**

Companies that are ineligible to be accredited in the ACCME system are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

**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.

**Relevant financial relationships**

ACCME and pertinent accrediting bodies focus 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 activity. ACCME and pertinent accrediting bodies have 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.

**Conflict of Interest**

Circumstances create a conflict of interest when an individual has an opportunity to affect content about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a financial relationship.