



eMedEd



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Guidelines & Best Practices: Ensuring Educational Independence in CME/CE Activities

Educational independence is a core principle in the planning and execution of CME/CE activities. Providers must ensure that all educational content is free from the influence of ineligible companies and focused solely on improving patient care and professional competence. Following these best practices helps maintain credibility, comply with ACCME, ANCC, and ACPE requirements, and foster learner trust.

1

Key Principles of Educational Independence

- ✓ Educational content must be based on evidence and clinical best practices, not commercial interest.
- ✓ Ineligible companies cannot control or influence content, faculty selection, or educational design.
- ✓ All faculty and planners must disclose relevant financial relationships to ensure transparency.
- ✓ The provider must maintain control over content, including final review and approval.

2

Planning and Content Development

- ✓ Needs assessments and learning objectives must be based on identified gaps in professional practice, not on product promotion.
- ✓ Select faculty based on expertise, experience, and absence of unresolved conflicts of interest.
- ✓ Review all presentations, handouts, and multimedia for compliance with independence standards.
- ✓ Avoid any branding, promotional language, or industry logos in content and marketing materials.

3

Managing Financial Relationships

- ✓ Collect full disclosure of financial relationships from all planners, faculty, and content reviewers.
- ✓ Implement a formal conflict of interest (COI) resolution process before the activity launch.
- ✓ Document and retain all COI disclosures and resolutions for compliance and audit readiness.
- ✓ Ensure that no individual with a relevant financial relationship has control over content that could create a bias.

4

Delivery and Post-Activity Evaluation

- ✓ Monitor live and enduring activities to ensure no commercial influence is introduced during delivery.
- ✓ Conduct post-activity evaluations to identify any perception of bias or compromise of independence.
- ✓ Use feedback to strengthen future content planning and reinforce compliance measures.
- ✓ Providers should be ready to submit documentation to accrediting bodies if requested.

5

Sample Independence Statement

“This CME/CE activity was developed independently by the provider. All educational content is evidence-based, free from the control of ineligible companies, and intended to enhance clinical competence and patient outcomes. Any financial relationships have been reviewed and mitigated.”

